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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

MARCH 20th, 1980★ISSUE NO. 12

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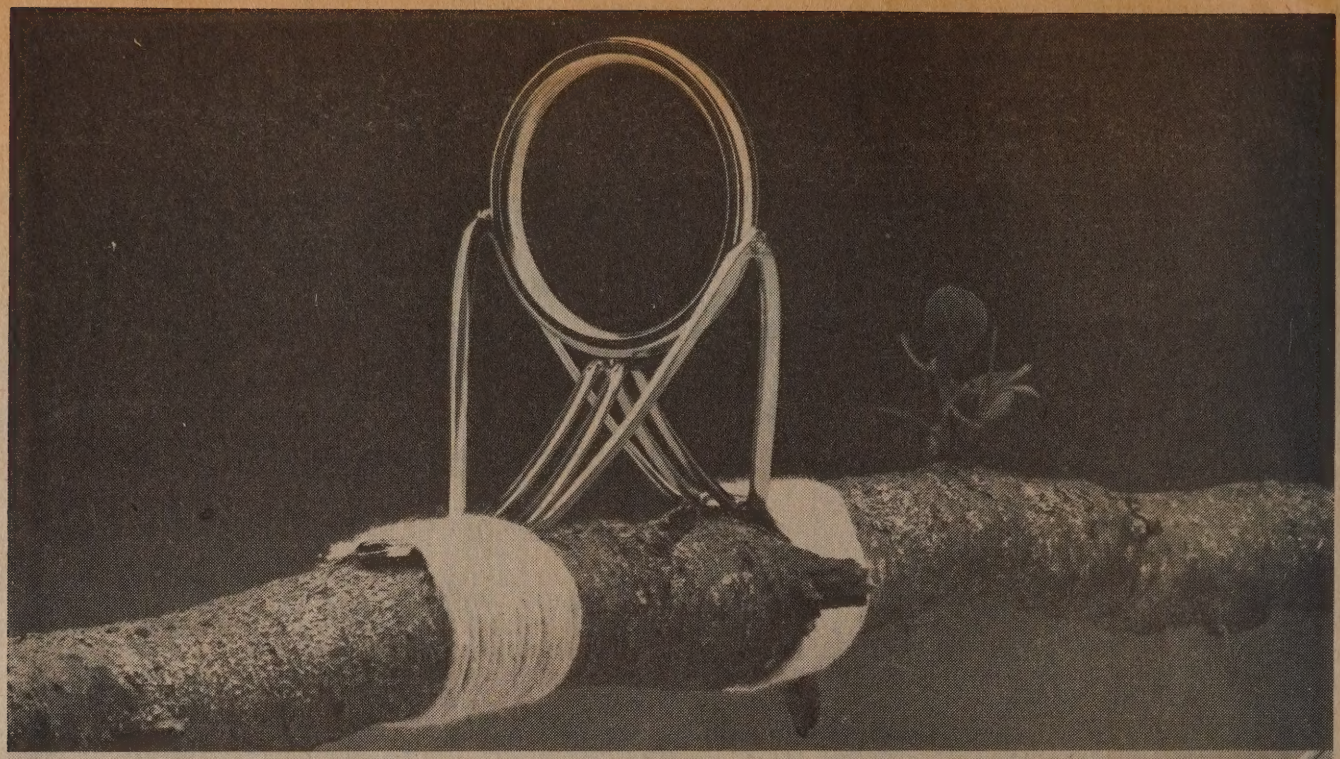
FRED GUARDINEER



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 15, Number 12 March20th, 1980

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COMING NEXT WEEK: BAITCASTING

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons, EDITOR
Fred Golofaro, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Rich Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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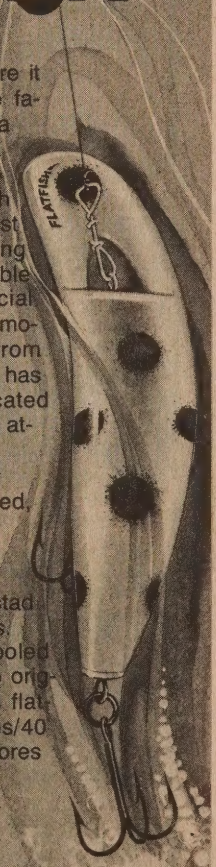
Fooling fish for forty years... The famous flatfish



Underwater, where it counts most, the famous flatfish is in a league by itself. On a slow retrieve, the flatfish produces the most natural swimming movement possible from any artificial lure. Its life-like motion, produced from casting or trolling, has yet to be duplicated despite countless attempts.
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CLUB NEWS

ATLANTIS ANGLERS

Freeport Atlantis Anglers are looking for new members with or without boats, to share expenses and good fun. They are a group of sportsmen who enjoy one thing—and that's fishing! The club has monthly fishing derbies, fishing trips, trophies, prizes and interclub contests. For more information, please call: Fuzzy Wengler, 516-546-0965; R. Mohler, 516-825-2342; Don Recchia, 516-825-7955.

MOORINGS ANGLERS

On March 4, 1980, the Moorings Anglers elected their new officers. Sam Gershowitz is Fishing Chairman, Harry Granoff is Assistant Fishing Chairman and Garry Bornholdt is Secretary.

The Club's fishing tournaments will be held on the following days:

Flounder—April 26, 1980
Weakfish—May 18, 1980
Fluke—June 14, 1980
Shark—July 12, 1980
Bluefish—July 26, 1980
Children's Bay—Aug. 9, 1980
Tuna—Aug. 16, 1980
Rodeo—Sept. 6, 1980
Children's Snapper—Sept. 13, 1980

SURF BREAKERS FISHING CLUB OF S.I.

The newly formed Surf Breakers Fishing Club of Staten Island is pleased to announce that they have received their charter.

The Club is highly competitive and open to any tournament invitations.

Please contact Charles N. Taverna, President (212) 979-4439.

Pass It On...

GENETIC CHANGES

Potential genetic changes caused by nuclear pollution will be the featured topic on the television program, FRIDAY FISHING FORECAST, which will be telecast live on March 21 (Brookhaven Cable TV, Channel 6, 6PM).

Dr. Elof Carlson, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Biology, State University at Stony Brook, will informally discuss with Lorry Mangan the theoretical, long-range genetic effects which are inherent in a nuclear "accident."

Viewers are invited to participate in this live discussion by telephoning 928-4900 while the 30 minute program is being aired.

For additional information, call Lorry Mangan, 928-1347.

DAILY FISHING REPORT NOW HEARD ON WKRB RADIO

For the first time ever, WKRB-FM (90.9) has a daily fishing report for all local fishing enthusiasts. Broadcasting at 10 watts of power from Kingsborough Community College, WKRB serves the immediate Brooklyn area as well as sections in Staten Island and New Jersey.

In the report, information will be given for such things as what kind of fish are running and where they're running, the suggested bait to use, tide levels and more.

WKRB's main concern as a radio station is to serve Brooklyn and its surrounding areas as best we can by providing diversity in our broadcast presentations. We feel this special feature will add dimension to our programming because it gives the listeners (in this case—hopefully all local fishermen), a source for practical information in the sport of fishing.

The daily fishing report can be heard Monday through Friday at —;45 a.m. and at 5:45 p.m. We welcome any comments and/or suggestions. Simply mail them to: Donna Lent, Director of Public Relations, WKRB-FM, Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11235.

NEW BOOKS

BEGINNER'S FLY FISHING HANDBOOK

"Fly Fishing Made Easy," a 64-page illustrated handbook written especially for the beginning fly fisherman, is now available from Scientific Anglers/3M.

After presenting a detailed guide for selecting and assembling balanced fly tackle, the handbook describes a step-by-step, fieldproven method for learning fly casting. Simple language and numerous illustrations help take much of the work out of acquiring this skill.

The booklet also describes effective fly fishing techniques for trout, bass and panfish. In addition, it provides in-depth coverage of aquatic insect life cycles and how they relate to selecting the correct fly pattern.

Copies of the handbook are available in the United States for $1.95 ($2.50 in Canada). To obtain your copy, send your check made out to Scientific Anglers/3M, Department A, P.O. Box 33984-PR, St. Paul, MN 55133.

Contests & Tournaments

HUDSON CANYON TUNA & BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

The Squadron Anglers are presenting an exciting tournament this summer. The Hudson Canyon Billfish and Tuna Invitational Tournament. The dates are August 9 and 10, with headquarters at one of the finest marinas on the East Coast: The Anchorage in Lindenhurst.

Over $4500 in cash and prizes will be awarded and the contest will be limited to 50 entries. Both clubs and individuals are welcome with clubs competing for special trophies. Entry fee is $225 per boat. Club entries are limited to a two-boat team, but a club can enter more than one team.

We look for this to be a special tournament to demonstrate the outstanding bluewater fishing of our Long Island waters. Blue marlin, w hite marlin, swordfish and tuna in quality sizes will be the quarry and the Canyon is well stocked.

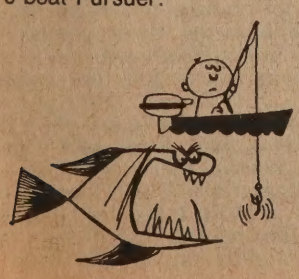
The Club wondered about the appeal of such a tournament but any doubt was soon dispelled—after an initial exposure at the New York Boat Show, inquiries began to pour in from all quarters and deposits are beginning to follow. So it looks like a responsive chord was struck.

For more information, rules and particulars, write or call Bill McFarland, 13 Anchor Drive, Massapequa, New York 11758, telephone 516-541-1733.

MARYLAND MARLIN SEASON

According to an October 29, 1979 release from the Ocean City, Maryland Public Relations Department, the total recreational catch of white marlin for the 1979 season was 941, with 561 fish released and 380 boated. The total is slightly under last year's catch of 1,104 fish, but far above the 1977 figure of 364. The best season was in 1969, when over 2,500 white marlin were caught.

This year's season began on June 9 when angler Paul Bekevac landed a 74 lb. marlin off the Baltimore Canyon. The heaviest catch of 1979 weighed 107 lbs. It was taken September 30 by David A. Rodriguez of San Leandro, California, while fishing from Captain Al Simpson's boat Pursuer.



BOATING

The annual spring Boating Safety and Seamanship Course given by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-2 will start on April 22, 1980, at I.S. 74, Oceania Street and the Long Island Expressway, Bayside.

This is a six lesson course of instruction covering all phases of boating skills. Covered will be boat handling, legal requirements, rules of the road, aids to navigation, chart work, engines, weather and radio. More info may be obtained by calling 516-671-7807 or 212-326-1306. Classes will start at 7:30 p.m.

MARINE ELECTRONICS EXPO APRIL 12-13

Displays and working demonstrations of a wide range of popular marine electronics equipment presented by Griffith Marine Navigation, Inc., of New Rochelle, NY, will highlight the 1980 public opening under new ownership of the South Seas Yacht Club here, April 12-13, 10AM to 5PM, according to Joseph J. Sella, general partner of the 550-slip full-service marina.

Featured in this Marine Electronics Expo in the marina's Ship's Store will be Loran C, radar, VHF marine radios, depth recorders, depth indicators, and auto pilots produced by a variety of leading manufacturers. John R. Schebendach, sales manager, will head a team of Griffith experts to demonstrate the equipment and answer questions.

"This special two-day exhibit is designed to present an array of the most popular electronic gear available, offering a broad selection of capabilities in a range of prices to appeal to most boat owners," Schebendach said. Griffith is noted for its public educational efforts in marine electronics, including seminars and individualized consultation service to boat owners on the right equipment for their boats and type of use.

Located at the foot of Seaman's Neck Road on South Oyster Bay, South Seas is one of the largest year-round marinas on the Eastern Seaboard. It has 550 slips for boats to 50', all with electricity and fresh water, is situated on 26 acres of land and ten acres of water, and offers a snack bar, ship's store, and complate service for all types of boats. It is the base for the South Seas Flotilla of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

BOATING

Ronald Blicksilver, one of the skippers from the fishing vessel, the Avenger from Sheepshead Bay, announces the beginning of a twelve week public education course from the USCG Auxiliary. Areas covered will include piloting, boat handling,

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rules of the road, aids to navigation and marine engines. The course is given every Wednesday night at the Edward R. Murrow High School in Brooklyn. For information and registration, call him at 212-258-5100.

* * *

A marathon of free courses for young boatmen will be given during the school spring recess by Flotilla 13-2 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. In an effort to reach as many 10 to 16 year olds as possible, the three-lesson courses will be given at three different locations at different times of day. All will take place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, March 31, April 2 and 4, as follows:

10AM-Noon: Syosset Public Library, 2255 Oyster Bay Road, Syosset; 1PM-3PM: Wantagh Park, Merrick Road, Wantagh; 4PM—6PM: John J. Burns Park, Merrick Rd., Massapequa.

For additional information, call 516-541-9838.

C.G. ISSUES WARNING AGAINST LIFE RAFT SERVICING BY UNAUTHORIZED OPERATORS

The U.S. Coast Guard is urging both foreign and U.S. vessel operators, ship masters and port agents to select proper servicing facilities for their inflatable life rafts.

A Coast Guard advisory responds to reports of raft servicing by firms that are not trained or authorized by the raft manufacturers to perform the required maintenance. Coast Guard officials have received several reports of improperly serviced rafts that would have manfunctioned in an emergency. The problems usually were traced to servicing by unauthorized stations.

Servicing of rafts ashore should be limited to facilities and depots recommended by the raft manufacturer because different types of rafts require different replacement parts and packing procedures, the Coast Guard said. Unless rafts are overhauled and recertified by authorized firms, mistakes in packing can occur. Manufacturers waive responsibility for the operation of their rafts unless they are serviced by authorized stations.

Facilities designated as "U.S. Coast Guard Approved" are not necessarily qualified to work on all types of life rafts. Such approvals apply to servicing specific raft designs. Therefore, Coast Guard officials warn, those sending rafts ashore for servicing should check the manufacturer's list of qualified facilities. In the case of U.S. flag inspected vessels, rafts must be serviced at Coast Guard approved facilities.

SHIP OPERATIONS SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD IN N.Y.

A three day International Symposium on Ship Operations (ISOSO) will be held at the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City September 23, 24, 25, 1980. This conference will examine those problems relating to Navigation, Weather forecasting and Communications aspects in the martitime industry. Running concurrently with the symposium will be an exhibit of the latest equipment from International Manufacturers in those three areas. The sponsors of the symposium are the Maritime Association of the Port of New York, the Council of American Master Mariners, the American Institute of Merchant Shipping, and the Council of American Flag Ship Operators. Conference Chairman, Capt. Alfred E. Fiore of Mara-Time Marine Service, had this comment: "Tremendous strides have been made in the "new technology" in the areas of Navigation, Communications, and Weather adaptive processes of ship operations.

At the same time there has been a large growth in the size of the worlds merchant fleets along with an alarming increase in vessel casualties. The latter development has caused international reaction in the form of severe regulartory requirements. The vessel operators are presently worried about effecting compliance with these new regulations. We feel that the solution of this problem along with the concommitant interest in saving fuel and safeguarding the marine environment implies an urgent need to

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spread the word on how this "new technology can assist vessel operators in attaining improved safety records and hence stay within the spirit and constraints of the new laws. The symposium on Ship Operation is dedicated to this precept." For more information contact: International Symposium on Ship Operations, 80 Broad Street, 34th Floor, New York NY 10005 (212) 425-5704.

New Products

PHOTO-PRINT SLAB SERIES

Bomber Bait Company announces the new Photo-Print Slab series. Comes in nine colors, and five sizes: 5/8 oz. #8700, 7/8 oz. #8800, 1¼ oz. #8900, 1¾ oz. #9000, 2½ oz. #9000 HD.

The slab is a combination spoon and jig. The design in connection with the weight, makes it possible to fish all depths, yet allows the lure to hold the bottom in extreme depths. The Slab is a standard item with all serious striper fishermen. Slabs are also available in Bucktail models.

Contact Bomber Bait Company for more information: 326 Lindsay, Gainesville, Texas 76240, (817) 665-5505.

Pass It On...

STREN LINE GIFT OFFER

DuPont order of STREN is on its way to The Fisherman. All Stren gifts will be mailed out by the end of March—earlier, if at all possible. THE LADIES FROM LIF.

WORLD FISH CONSUMPTION

The share of the world's fishery landings used for human food has declined from nearly ninety percent in the 1940s to about seventy percent in the mid-1970s. Food fish is still marketed in fresh form more than in any other. (Souce: U.S. Dept of Commerce, Office of International Fisheries Affairs release, September 1979).

NATIONAL FISHING WEEK

National Fishing Week, May 12-18, will push off with a big splash as thousands of new fisherpersons young and old are introduced to the sport through fishing clinics, seminars and demonstrations to be held throughout the U.S.

Theme of this year's National Fishing Week, sponsored by the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA) is "Take A Kid Fishing." The multi-phased effort, involving elements ranging from publicity and in-store promotions to fishing clinics, gubernatorial proclamations and ad support, will be the fishing tackle industry's major promotion of the year.

According to Paul Mulready, president of AFTMA, "National Fishing Week is designed to combine the efforts of every person interested in fishing into a cohesive, high impact group to pass the sport onto others. Our goal is to introduce the joy of fishing to the youth of America. Thus the theme 'Take A Kid Fishing'."

The broad national effort will also include "getting people and fish together" through the establishment of fishin' holes (man-made fish attractors) throughout the country. Pond stocking and ecology seminars will also be included in the week's events.

Opportunities are being sought for the involvement of all types of youth groups—Boy and Girl Scouts, church groups, handicapped youngsters and Y-organizations—in sport fishing, environmental preservation and fishery development.

In addition to the retailer, AFTMA hopes to involve adult fishing clubs, fishing-related organizations (such as Salmon Unlimited), its own National Youth Fishing Program and the media in a unified effort to introduce this lifetime sport to all in 1980.

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THE MOORING
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—Evinrude Dealer—

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—Johnson Dealer—

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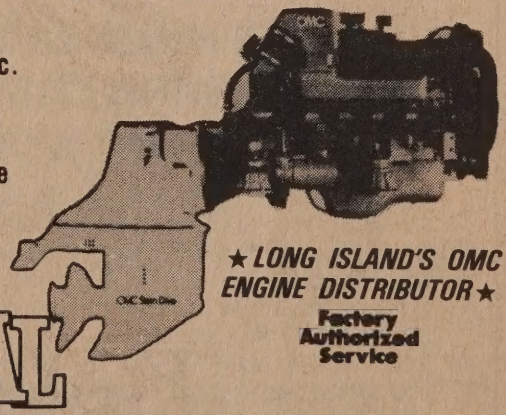

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American Honda has introduced the only four-stroke outboard engines available today in the 7.5 and 10 h.p. class. They run on regular gasoline and feature a high performance carburetor for fast acceleration and smooth idling. A new feature of the 1980 Honda outboards is the ease of maintenance through the introduction of CD ignition.

The four-stroke designs provide quiet engines which run more economically than two strokes.

The Honda outboards need only regular gasoline. There is no premixing of gas and oil as with two-stroke engines, so there is no risk of spills. Carbon deposits are minimized so spark plugs are kept cleaner longer. The result is easier starting, cleaner running (no oil to burn out as smoke) and reduced fuel and operating costs.

The 10 h.p. engine is the BF-100; the 7.5 h.p. is the BF-75, and both are available in long and short shaft models.

The four-stroke BF series have been designed to minimize their weight—excellent balancing makes mounting and dismounting effortless and the engine tilts easily to allow passage over shallow water. Most standard propellers can be quickly dismounted.

Both feature a 60-watt charging coil to charge the battery, an easy-to-read oil pressure indicator light, plus fuel tank with easy disconnect fuel line, tool kit, extra spark plug, shear pins, extra starter rope and spare oil tank. Fuel tank capacity is 3.4 gallons.

The Honda BF-75 outboard will retail for $789 (short shaft) and $799 (long shaft) while the BF-100 will retail for $905 (short shaft) and $915 (long shaft). All models are available at Honda dealers nationwide.

CHUM LINES

LEE NIBORAES

Best wishes on the very welcome addition of your feature to *The Fisherman*.

Re: do-it-yourself sinker making, I found it most helpful to keep the ladle and mold almost as hot as the melting pot. This isn't difficult on an old four-burner gas stove in the basement. It also pays to clamp the two sides of the mold tightly together. Old auto battery jumper cable clamps are ideal for this and many other purposes. The mold itself gets too hot to handle without the clamp. Besides, the lead leaks out.

My glow tubing glows for 4 minutes on test in a dark closet rather than for "hours" as advertised. The rigs I've used it on are no

more effective than when fished without it. I know I'm a lousy fishermen, but how would you justify the effort? I long ago stopped counting costs. Good luck. *Al Lynch, Valley Stream, N.Y.*

Thanks for the tips that resulted from your experiments. I hoe you remember to pour your hot lead in a well-ventilated area. As far as your experience with "glow" tubing is concerned, the effectiveness of using the tubing on your rigs will depend to a great extent on where you fish, how you fish, and what you fish for. Unfortunately, you left these crucial data items out of your letter.

For example, some fishermen claim great results for fluke during dawn and dusk. Others tell us that weaks and blues seem to respond well both at dawn and dusk and at night. Porgies, flounder, sea bass, cod, etc., sometimes go crazy over rigs with "glow" tubing in deep murky water. W. A. Muller.

***

My question is—I have this Daiwa spinning reel. The model is 7700A. When I use this reel it sounds just like an old-fashioned coffee grinder and, of course, it is impossible to fish with because it sounds terrible and it is also impossible to fish with the anti-reverse. What can I do? *M. Morgan, Brooklyn, N.Y.*

Daiwa reels, as you know, are fine reels and they have found wide popularity both in boats and on the beach. They feature quality construction and smooth drags. Your letter does not mention how long you have owned the reel, how much you have used the reel, and if you have ever cleaned it. If the reel is new, then return it to the place where you purchased it and they will honor the guarantee, replacing it with a new one. However, if you have given the reel some use, then I would bet that you haven't cleaned the reel. If the best reels accumulate dirt, salt—from alternate wetting and drying—and even sand, you should not attempt to use a reel that is dirty since the grit can damage gears and other moving parts. Remember that various parts of your reel are greased and oiled and that petroleum will trap salt, dirt, and sand, making a mushy combination that will be an effective abrasion agent instead of a lubricant. The dirt will thicken the grease and oil making the reel hard to turn. If you have used the reel in this condition you may have already damaged parts and if this is true, it will add to the noise.

I suggest you take your reel apart and clean it. You don't have to do a complete take-down and most procedures are simple. If you are unfamiliar with how to take the reels apart, then you may want to take it to your local bait and tackle store and let them clean it, which they will do for a modest fee. In your case, this might be the best idea since there

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seems to be some possibility that you have already damaged parts. Your local dealer will be able to make repairs while cleaning it.

If you attempt to clean the reel yourself, consult the brochure that came with the reel. This brochure will give you important information on how the reel comes apart. You want to take the side-plate of the housing of the reel, remove the spool, and disassemble the drag. Scrap and wipe off all the old grease gently. Then clean off residues with plain water. If grease and dirt are crusty you will need a solvent which can be purchased at your tackle store. Coat the gears with a high quality lubricant made especially for fishing reels. Wash off the spool and wipe dry. Clean drag mechanism and oil non-teflon parts with a thin coat of a light oil. Put the parts back together, spray with WD-40, and replace old line. W. A. Muller.

DRAGGING IN PECONICS

I have fished in the Peconic Bays for fourteen years. I have seen the cultivating the draggers do. We fished out of Sag Harbor for flounder; we had a very good catch—1½ to 3 lb. fish. When we came in for the day, a little old man came over to check our catch. Being a good sportsman, we told him where we caught them. The next day we went out to the same spot and found a dragger working over our spot. Guess who the captain was? Our total catch that day was 15 fish. As long as we have draggers operating in the bays, NO SALTWATER LICENSE. **Bob Scherier, Congers, N.Y.**

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Exciting action films of outdoor recreation and fishing, designed especially for showing to clubs, civic and sportsmen's organizations, schools and youth groups, are now available from Lowrance Electronics, Inc., in Tulsa.

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A complete list of films, order forms and other information on the service can be obtained by contacting Lowrance Electronics, Inc., Film Department, 12000 East Skelly Drive, Tulsa, OK 74128.

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The *"L.I.F. DISCOUNT COUPON"* printed below is a regular feature of *The Long Island Fisherman* that we hope will help our regular subscribers to fight inflation. The coupons offer discounts on tackle, bait, marine electronics, boat rentals, fares on open boats and charter boats, etc. To use the coupon, just cut it out and bring it with you to the establishment offering the discount along with a recent copy of *The Long Island Fisherman* with the mailing label affixed to the front cover to prove that you are a current subscriber. If you are not a subscriber at the present time and wish to become one, just fill out the subscription blank that appears in this issue—which also entitles you to two free BOONE Shrimp Tout Lures as a free premium. Advertisers wishing to join the discount coupon program should contact Stu Miller at (516) 868-2391 *Today!*

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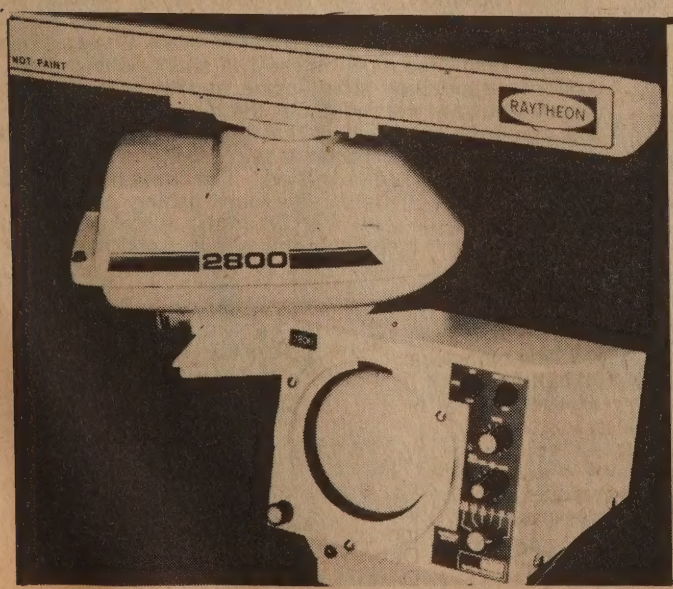

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NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

NMFS IGNORES CONFLICT

The joint venture between the Fass Brothers commercial fishing operation in Virginia and an Italian company that was supposed to supply a mother ship, never did come off this winter. The reason for this isn't clear. Depending on the story you accept, it could be inability of the American fishermen involved to harvest enough squid, or simply that the Italian company backed out of the deal. What is clear is that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was anxious to see the joint venture develop—and not at all embarrassed by the conflict of interest involved with their appointment last summer of Arthur Fass, one of the Fass Brothers owners, to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

The question as to whether American shore-side labor should be bypassed in joint venture arrangements, is a political hot potato. However, that wasn't the key question involved in this instance. The appointment of Arthur Fass put the Mid-Atlantic Council in the difficult position of having to make a decision which would very directly affect the pocketbook of a fellow member. This conflict of interest situation was protested by Councilman Bill Feinberg (N.J.), along with Bob Rubelmann and Mike Keene of Maryland and Ralph Abele of Pennsylvania. These members felt that it wasn't appropriate for the Council to vote on approval of the joint venture application under the circumstances.

Terry Leitzell, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (in charge of NMFS), rejected the protest of the four councilmen. He stated that in drawing membership from the fishing industry for the Councils, "Congress inherently recognized that at various times during the course of its business a potential for conflict of interest might arise between the private interests of Council members and their responsibilities under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976." Leitzell went on to note that the affiliations of all members are "known by the public"; that the "Council vote is a matter of public record and is based on discussion at a public forum"; and that "there was an opportunity for all viewpoints to be presented, and we see no impropriety in the Council's action in this case."

Leitzell's explanation may sound reasonable in theory, but it certainly ignores the reality of the situation. The almost total lack of publicity surrounding Council activities negates any assertion that the affiliations of all members are known by the public or that the Council vote is based on discussion at a public forum. Mid-Atlantic Council meetings are normally held in Philadelphia, far from the location of almost everyone in the region working in any aspect of the fishing industry. Publicity surrounding the meetings, and the agenda, is minimal—and they are normally attended by only a handful of government fisheries people and a few representatives of well-organized fisheries groups and foreign governments. Unless there is a very hot issue to be discussed, and individual Councilmen make a strong effort to get individuals affected to attend, there is little public input into these meetings. Even as an ex-Council member, I was unaware of this application or consideration of it by the Council. Can Leitzell seriously assert that the public is really aware of what is going on in the Council?

My experience on the Mid-Atlantic Council led me to believe that all of the people involved were honorable and would vote their conscience in every case. However, we were never faced with such a direct conflict of interest—one in which the private interests of one Council member would be so intimately involved. It's not hard to understand that the very natural reaction in such a situation would be to go along with the proposal unless the member involved was violently opposed to it.

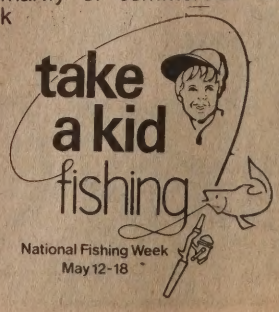
Since there is little likelihood that the Mid-Atlantic Council will ever receive a great deal more publicity than it does at present (or get more public input), it's essential that everything done by the Council not only be aboveboard—but also give the same appearance. The recent example of the Abscam scandal and the New Jersey Casino Control Commission should not be ignored. The seemingly improper actions of one member, and the reported boasts of influence over the chairman by Senator Williams, have cast a shadow over all the members and the various decisions they've made. It's unfortunate that NMFS chose to further their own interests by replacing an anti joint venture councilman with one whose own company is attempting such ventures. That appointment was hardly inconsistent with the NMFS policy of downgrading the Councils, and it's not surprising that there is no concern in NMFS about conflict of interest. However, it's the Council that's now on the spot—and the actions they take in conflict of interest matters should be carefully considered so as to keep the Council above reproach.

NMFS Opposes Sportsmen in Everglades Fight

A recent National Scene discussed a report from a source in Washington relative to the possibility that an Executive Order would transfer the National Marine Fisheries Service from the Commerce Department to Interior. As I noted then, sport fishermen would find a much friendlier attitude in Interior. A perfect example of this occurred recently in a battle over fishing regulations in the Everglades National Park. Once one of the greatest fishing areas in the world, the Everglades has suffered greatly from a combination of changes in water flow and unregulated commercial fishing pressure. Fortunately, Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus recently announced new fishing regulations for the park that include a phase-out of commercial fishing. And, not surprisingly, the National Marine Fisheries Service backed the continuation of commercial fishing in this shallow water area with its very delicate ecological balance.

Thresher Sharks Being Gillnetted in California

Is this a sign of the future for the East Coast? California swordfishermen had a bad year on their target species last year, according to a recent issue of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation newsletter, and took to gillnetting thresher sharks—a species that's come to draw a high price on the West Coast. Since there still isn't too much interest in shark fishing there, California sportsmen aren't upset at that aspect of the fishery—but are worried about the number of swordfish and marlin being taken by that method. The swordfish taken in that manner can't be sold legally in California, but are easily black-marketed. The marlin have no market and are dumped. A sport fishing spokesman there is upset because the California Fish and Game Department isn't doing anything about it and the Pacific Council (composed primarily of commercial interests) "doesn't care." If shark meat becomes popular on our Coast, will we, too, see high seas gillnetting start?



THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) THIS LIGHTHOUSE, CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN 1872-78 IS LOCATED AT THE EASTERN ENTRANCE TO L.I. SOUND AND MARKS A GOOD FISHING SPOT IN A TURBU.. ..LENT CHANNEL KNOWN AS

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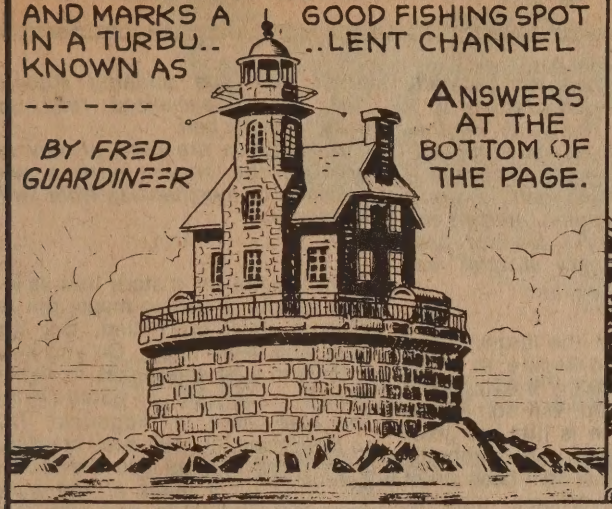
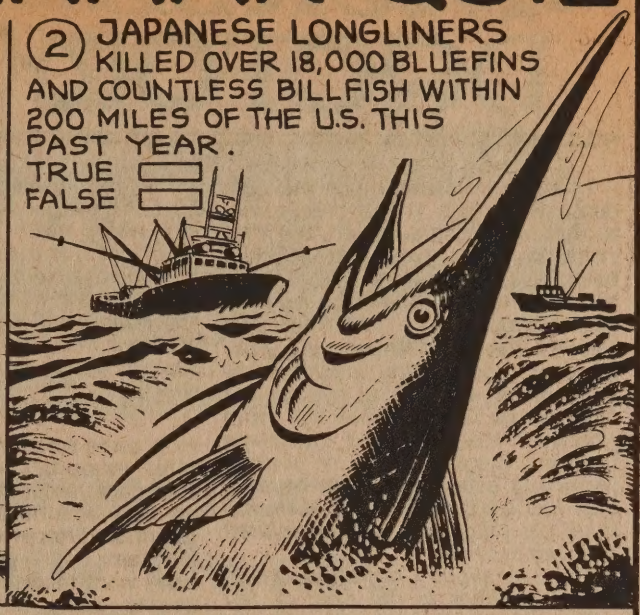
BY FRED GUARDINEER

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.



(2) JAPANESE LONGLINERS KILLED OVER 18,000 BLUEFINS AND COUNTLESS BILLFISH WITHIN 200 MILES OF THE U.S. THIS PAST YEAR.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



(3) WHITE PERCH ARE KNOWN TO LIVE 12 YEARS ☐

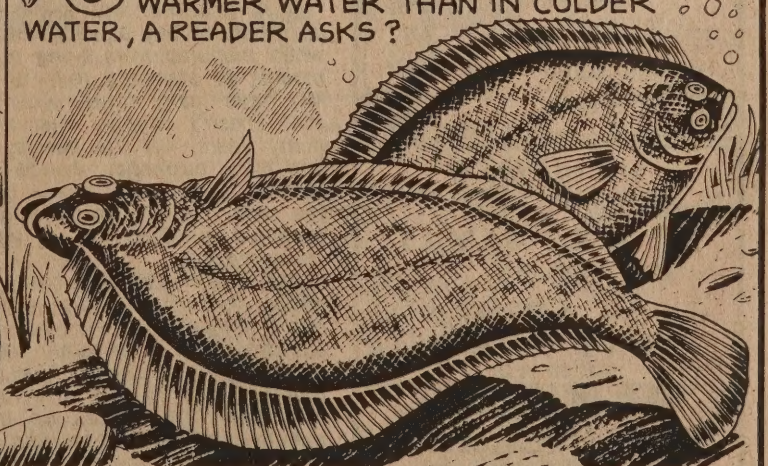
17 YRS. ☐
23 YRS. ☐

(4) WHICH OF THESE TROUT LEAPS HIGHER AND MORE OFTEN WHEN HOOKED?

BROWN TROUT ☐ RAINBOWS ☐
BROOK TROUT ☐ LAKE TROUT ☐

(5) WHAT ARE THESE HEAVY HOOKLESS "JUDAS" PLUGS USED FOR IN FRESHWATER?

(6) WHY DO MOST FISH BITE BETTER IN WARMER WATER THAN IN COLDER WATER, A READER ASKS?



1-THE RACE. 2-TRUE. 3-17 YEARS. 4-RAINBOW TROUT. 5-FOR TEASING BASS TO COME OUT FROM HEAVY COVER WHERE REGULAR PLUGS WOULD GET HUNG UP. 6-THE COLDER THE WATER, THE LESS FISH NEED TO FEED BECAUSE A LOWERED METABOLIC RATE MAKES A LITTLE FOOD GO A LONG WAYS. SO YOU CATCH MORE FISH IN WARMER WATER BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE ACTIVE AND FEED MORE OFTEN.

TACKLE DOCTOR

Questions answered by
Doc Lee Niboraes
of the Mayco Clinic

I have some Rebel plugs that just don't swim right. They vibrate nicely as they wiggle side to side, but they swim on their sides rather than being level in the water. What gives and can I get them to swim right by adding weight? *M. Townsend*

Rebels, RedFins, Atoms, Whopper Stoppers and several other swimming plugs with a ring eye on the nose can be tuned so they will swim "better." Keep in mind that some fishermen want a "bad" or unusual swimming action to a plug because they feel a big bass or weakfish will think the plug looks like an injured or dying baitfish.

You can slightly bend the eye of the plug either to the right or left with a pair of pliers and also change the shape of the eye to bend it slightly upward or downward to alter the swimming action. Experiment. Don't apply much of a bend, but change the action a little at time until you have a "correctly" swimming lure.

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I've met fishermen who actually bent the eye loops on purpose so a lure would swim right and another identical lure would swim left, thinking that some fish may prefer a right- or left-handed bait. I won't argue the point because I helped one of these men carry a load of bass back to his truck. My stringer was empty.

* * *

How come some of the larger stores offer name-brand tackle at such enormous discounts? I like to go to my local small shop, but sometimes the price difference is just too great too pass up. I know you probably don't want to answer this because of getting some advertisers mad at you, but I'd like to know the reason. *Bob York*

There are several reasons why this happens. Some are for the good of the fishermen; others aren't. The larger stores buy in volumn, thereby taking advantage of the greatest possible discounts offered by the manufacturer. There is usually a larger discount on 100 dz. reels than on a single dozen reels. The discount is passed along to the consumer. Some of the larger stores feature a smaller total number of models than their smaller local shop counterparts. If you want the XYZ model 10 and the large store has it, go buy it; but if you are looking for the model 30, they may not carry it and so you have to go to the smaller shop.

It is possible that some of the larger stores buy at very low prices when manufacturers bring out new models of standard rods or reels. We have many times seen a reel that doesn't change internally for many years, yet the decals, colors and other cosmetics change on the outside. Some chain stores can sell the older model, which is still an excellent product, for a year-end clearance sale.

We have watched the battle of the stores for many years and have heard both sides of the story. In our opinion, there is certainly room for each type of store. The larger discount stores are offering the consumer low prices on quality merchandise for the bargain conscious angler. On the other hand, the smaller local stores offer the thousands of hard to get items that chain stores can never carry. They also offer firsthand knowledge and advice. Plus bait, both live and frozen.

The large stores make their profit in volumn. The smaller store makes profit from rod building supplies, rigs, lines, specialized rods, and especially the bait.

Both stores are here to stay and provide the angler with a wide selection of merchandise from which to choose.

* * *

I'm looking for a store that sells a wide variety of fishing maps, not the offshore small craft kind, but topo maps and lakes maps. Do you know of anyone who specializes in fishing maps? *Stan Denny.*

The Map Store in Ridgefield, N.J. on 595 Broad Avenue does specialize in the kind of map you are looking for. They carry maps of the major reservoirs and lakes and also topographic maps. Give them a call at 201-943-5550.

Another source is Outdoor Publications, Ithaca, N.Y. They publish a series of maps under the name of Sportsman's Maps and cover New York State areas like Pepacton, Sullivan and Delaware Counties among others. Write for a list of maps available.

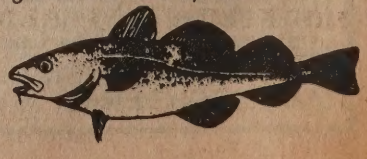
* * *

The carboloy guides on my wire line trolling rods eventually came loose at the solder joint where the ring attaches to the guide foot frame. Can I re-solder these? I've been told that the ceramic guides will, and will not hold up to wire. What do you think? *R. Johansen*

If you know how to silver solder, you can re-solder the joints. It is best to remove the guide from the rod to avoid damage to the blank from the build-up of the heat from a soldering gun.

Ceramic guides of the type like the Fuji DHG WILL work well with wire line. I have all my wire rods equipped with these guides and have had absolutely no trouble over a four year period. They will eventually wear out just like carboloy, but it takes a lot of hard fishing.

Be careful. Many ceramic guides have a thin plastic holding ring which is fine for spinning and bait casting, but which is not nearly strong enough for use with wire. The ceramic rings will pop out of the plastic mounts. The Fuji DHG has a strong, durable and sturdy mounting ring that will hold up well.



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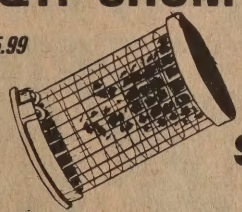

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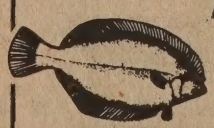

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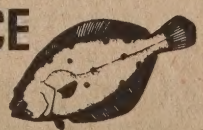

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During my stint in the offices of The Fisherman, it was not uncommon to receive calls from readers requesting "Where can I go fishing and how?" As simple, and even silly as it may sound to some, this is a very real problem facing many novice anglers who are just beginning to get their feet wet. Fortunately for

BAY FISHING

with Fred Golofaro

SOUTH BAY OPPORTUNITIES

these people, Long Island's South Shore bays offer numerous opportunities for providing a day of fun afloat.

From Island Park to Shinnecock, partyboats, charter boats, and fishing stations dot the waterfront. Each of the three offer a unique opportunity for tackling such inshore favorites as flounder, fluke, weakfish, kingfish and blackfish.

There are those who prefer the camaraderie and comfort of a "head boat," savoring the new friendships as much as returning home with a bag full of tasty flounder fillets. Some prefer to go the charter route, choosing to rub elbows with a select group of friends. The more personal attention received from captain and mate help compensate for the additional cost of a charter. For the angler who likes to do it on his own, fishing stations provide all the independence one could desire.

Each approach has its advantages and disadvantages. You must decide which of the three is best suited to your style of fishing.

As I already said, partyboats offer comfort as well as a very stable platform from which to fish. Some anglers are more at ease aboard a large craft, whether in the bay or forty miles offshore.

Most open boats are equipped with galleys which provide patrons with food and drink. In addition, for those without tackle of their own, rods and reels can be rented at nominal cost. Mates are usually quick to provide assistance to anyone who needs it. By all means, don't be afraid to ask questions when it comes to rigging or technique. It makes little sense to let ego stand in the way of bringing home a good catch. Mates are experienced and in tune with what's been happening. Listen to them!

Open boats such as this one out of Captree provide thousands of Long Island anglers the opportunity to spend an enjoyable day fishing the many bays on the south shore.

The chance of going home with the pool money is an added bonus when fishing aboard a "head boat." Another plus for this type of angling is that you can go fishing at a moment's notice. No reservations are needed and if you don't like the weather when you get up, it's back to counting sheep.

Providing you don't mind lining up at the rail among strangers, open boat angling has lots to offer the otherwise shore-bound angler.

The following "partyboats" are among those catering to fishermen in the south Bay area:

ISLAND PARK:
Commodore—431-2230

FREEPORT:
Capt. Hall—BA 3-7418
Capt. Lou II—RO 6-5716
Capt. Al—MA 3-2248
Miss Freeport II—221-1355
Aloma II—884-7821

LINDENHURST:
Sea Horse—665-8814

CAPTREE:
Capt. Whittaker—669-6237
Capt. Scotty—669-0627
Capt. Ben Litwin—661-2764
Capt. Richie—581-0262
Jib Fleet—587-2188
Capt. Rod—669-1982

BAY SHORE:
Casey Lee—546-5568

SHINNECOCK:
Capt. Clark Fleet—728-1709

There is much to be said for the charter boat fleet also. Captains know that the only way to ensure repeat business is to produce fish. With a few exceptions, they give it their all. However, because you don't load the box doesn't mean the captain didn't try his best. There are other rewards to reap. A day on the water away from phones, traffic jams, and the usual toils of daily routine is satisfying in itself.

Charter boats provide all tackle and bait; you supply your own food and drink.

While still providing comfort and the fish finding expertise of a captain, chartering permits more alternatives than open boats when it comes to techniques and species of fish sought. It is possible for example, to take on species such as bass and blues within the confines of south shore bays and inlets aboard small charter craft. Those looking for casting action with blues and weaks will find chartering better suited to their needs.

Below are some of the many charter boats available to those fishing the south shore bays. Many are available for large group and club outings, in addition to small charters.

ISLAND PARK:
Ro-Ma-Fran—431-9885
Ginnie-Mae—GE 1-5190

FREEPORT:
Boatman's Assoc.—378-4838
Capt. Darby—223-5041
Apus—691-8437
Blue Fin Fleet—352-2986
Nite Owl II—223-2507

LINDENHURST:
Lady Luck—731-2108

BABYLON:
Sea Ranger—586-7094
Seabird—581-0875

CAPTREE: Info. 593-1180
Lady Ann—698-5918
Yankee III—798-4551
Capt. Leo—289-6899
Blue Albatross—422-1410

Flying Dutchman—731-1794
Trebla III—669-5087
Capt. Eddie B II—884-5452

BAY SHORE:
Rum 'N Coke II—665-5588

MORICHES:
Sea Mist—473-4004
Nino—281-3121

For the angler with previous boating experience and equipment of his own, fishing stations are tough to beat. Boats and motors are available, but if you have your own small kicker you'll save some money by bringing it along. Most rental craft run about sixteen feet in length so that seven to twenty horsepower motors fill the bill nicely. Three anglers can fish comfortably in most rental skiffs.

You'll have to buy or bring your own bait and chum. Sometimes it pays to phone ahead to be sure the station has a good supply of the bait you desire. In some cases, the proprietor will be more than happy to reserve your bait order.

In some areas, boat reservations are a must. Particularly on fair weather weekends when it is not unusual for all skiffs to be rented.

While lacking the comfort and capacity of charter and open boats, rental skiffs permit freedom of movement and technique as well as allowing you to put your own fish finding prowess to work. They permit you the freedom to "do it your way." For some, it's the only way! Fishing stations are available all along the bay front, as demonstrated by the following list:

LONG BEACH:
L. B. Sports Marina—889-7810

ATLANTIC BEACH:
Henning's F.S.—239-9699

BALDWIN:
Arthur St. Marina—223-6110

POINT LOOKOUT:
Ed's F.S.—GE 1-4193
Scotty's Marina—432-4665

FREEPORT:
Charvin F.S.—378-8748

SEAFORD:
Capt. Eddie's—SU 5-0358
Shore Isle Marina—785-3090
Uncle Hermie's—SU 5-4018
Pop's—785-2960

MERRICK:
Nick's F.S.—FR 8-9555

BABYLON:
Hi-Hook F.S.—669-1869
Babylon F.S.—669-9510
Charlie's F.S.—669-9552

WEST SAYVILLE:
South Bay F.S.—589-2280

SAYVILLE:
Young's F.S.—567-9765

MASTIC BEACH:
Stiriz F.S.—281-9886

CENTER MORICHES:
Island F.S.—878-9629

EAST MORICHES:
L&M Marine—878-4777
Silly Lily F.S.—878-0247
Tadsen's F.S.—878-1120
Skidmore's F.S.—878-0572

EASTPORT:
Seatuck Cove—325-0367

HAMPTON BAYS:
Corr's Mariners Cove—728-0286

SHINNECOCK:
Tony's F.S.—728-6116

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SAT.—10AM to 10PM
SUN.—10AM to 8PM

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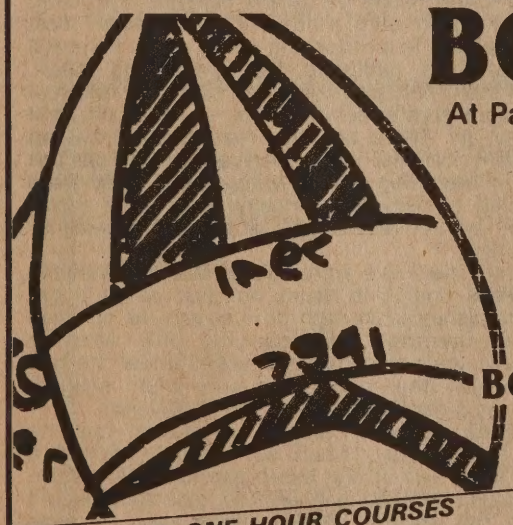

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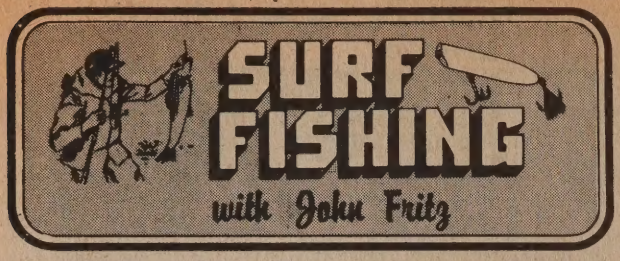
Shell has just announced its second five cent increase in the price of gasoline within a two-week period. This is after declaring a profit of over $1 billion for the previous year. We were



SAVE GAS—*Become a walker!*

dismayed when a year ago the cost of a gallon of gas was predicted to reach $1 a gallon. Well, we surpassed that plateau several months ago; now the economic experts are calling for $2 a gallon in the foreseeable future.

The cost of operating the family car, carrying out the basic needs of traveling back and forth to work, shopping trips and sundry necessary journeys will strain the average man's pocketbook to the utmost. What does that leave for the beach buggy fisherman patrolling his favorite beaches in search of elusive stripers or roaming schools of bluefish.

Fifteen years ago the number of buggies using our south shore beaches was minimal when compared to the traffic encountered today, especially on hot summer weekends. Basic fishing machines have progressed to cumbersome self-contained campers with extensions mounted fore and aft used to accommodate more gear and incidental equipment. Are more fish caught or was more time gained to spend in the water fishing by the legions of new buggy operators? The answer to that question can be debated endlessly on either side.

Comfort, to a certain degree, will enable an angler to spend more time in pursuit of his sport. Too much comfort too close at hand has a tendency to kindle an inclination towards laziness, whereby a former hard-working surfman will relax in the comfort of his rig and let others locate the fish for him. True, a motorized angler can cover more shore line, but the manner by which this stretch of beach is examined is more visual rather than actual standing in the suds beating the surf with a variety of lures hoping to entice a stray fish. This is especially true when fishing has been slow or the dry warmth of the buggy interior is in marked contrast to the weather conditions prevailing on the outside.

Before all of you buggy operators turn the page in disgust, thinking this article is going to be one more diatribe on buggies ruining the beaches, let me assure you that this is not the intention of this writer. On the contrary, I have no thought of giving up my buggy or the right to cruise the beaches in search of surf-caught game fish. I only want to remind buggy operators of those days before we were so fortunate, when we pounded the beach plugging every yard of water in our quest. Most of us are going to feel the effects of the energy crisis, whether it is real or contrived; therefore, certain adjustments will have to be made in our customary style of fishing. In order to further this modification let me point out some of the accessible fishing locations on the Island where buggies are not required and also re-awaken a few forgotten methods used by successful surfmen who trudge the water's edge stalking bass, blues, and weakfish.

Most good fishing areas possess a productive bar, rip or other particular physical element which draws game fish to the area. Whereas a buggy fisherman might drive to this one point, bypassing the intervening beach, due to the extra effort needed to stop the buggy, get out, fish, drive further on and repeat the process, the walker has no such inconvenience. He is already afoot, slowly passing long stretches of fishable water. On many occasions, anglers anxious to reach the prime objective of a beach, will have second thoughts about the areas bypassed when the supposedly more productive spots fail to yield results. A slow, methodical coverage of long spans of beach is not necessary. Two or three casts in a fan-like pattern every hundred feet will keep the area honest.

There are several thoughts which could be taken into consideration when lengthy walks must be taken to reach specific fishing locations. First of all, there is usually a certain stage of the tide when these waters are most productive, for which time an angler would like to be in position. If the possibility exists that an angler can be crowded out, then he should be in his intended spot ahead of time, but if there is no such risk, arrival before time could be a waste, with the effort better spent working other areas of the beach.

Another idea is to work an area fishing floating plugs going to a pre-determined spot, say when the water is down, and working sinking plugs on the return trip when the tide is high. In the same vein, the early current may not be at full strength when traveling one way; therefore, swimming plugs can be used that take full advantage of any water flow, whereas plugs such as the Hellcat can be employed when the tide is ripping. During daylight hours poppers could be used in one direction with a switch to tin for the return trip.

According to what has been expressed up to now, bait fishermen might feel left out. On the contrary, working the beach in this same manner can be adapted for them as well, although more time is required to accomplish the best results. Bait can be cast and retrieved ever so slowly, to be cast again a little further down the beach. This lesson was introduced to me on a pleasant June morning many years ago. I was fishing bottom for three hours, casting my bait into a slick formed by some boatmen clam chumming a short distance off the beach. My effort was for naught, while an angler applying the cast and walk technique using skimmer clam landed a nice fifteen pound bass 100 yards past my position.

By fishing away from crowds or areas suspected of harboring the main body of fish, larger prey can often be taken free from the worry of entangling lines and inconsiderate fishermen.

During the cooler months of the season heavy clothes are often worn to guard against the chill. Hurried walking in soft sand will soon cause most people to break out in a drenching sweat which dampens the undergarments nullifying their insulating value. Added time spent plugging along the beach will prevent this and ensure greater comfort later on when the chill begins to set in. There are also reasons for traveling slowly on warm summer nights. Aside from the obvious discomfort of becoming soaked with sweat, insects are more attracted to body odor. Heavy coatings of insect repellent will fail to hide this odor or be washed away by the perspiration.

Of course, there are areas too distant for even the most ambitious angler to walk, but just as a jogger increases the distance run each time so can the surfman roaming the waterfront. By carrying only what is necessary with the waterproof top tucked under the belt or over the surf bag to be used only when needed, surprisingly long reaches of beach can be covered.

Too much success in any endeavor has its drawbacks and so, too, when surf fishing without a buggy. Too many fish on the beach can make the return trip an arduous undertaking; therefore, discretion should be used in the amount of fish being kept. If after releasing part of the catch an angler still finds himself with a considerable number to be transported back to the car, he will find the task easier if he floats the fish behind him in the water. Naturally, a strong stringer and a calm surf will simplify matters, but the job can be accomplished in heavy water. The full weight of the fish is not borne by the angler and a lighter stringer will be ample until the parking area is reached when the fish must be lifted out of the water.

Several of my acquaintances, who dwell on the north shore of Long Island rarely fish the local beaches

for the one reason that beach buggies are not permitted. Trips east or to the open beaches of the oceanfront are undertaken mainly because buggies can be used. Sometimes better fishing can be had locally without buggies.

Beaches known to be private or inaccessible by car are frequently disregarded. This is unfortunate, for with a little investigation, ways can be discovered whereby access to these beaches can be gained. By the simple procedure of knocking on doors and politely asking permission to leave a parked car on otherwise restricted roadways, entrance to deserted beaches may be achieved. Single cars parked in unobtrusive locations may escape the attention of the local authorities and solitary surfmen quietly working the nighttime surf may go unnoticed. Loud noise and bright flashing lights detract from this furtive activity.

A dependable waterproof light which I have found to be an excellent tool when secrecy is desired is manufactured by Tekna Lite. This small lightweight flashlight can be worn on a strap hanging from the neck to be clenched between the teeth if two hands are needed for a chore. The intensity of the beam can be controlled by twisting the lens. Further secrecy can be gained by wrapping black vinyl tape around the side of the lens eliminating oblique rays, thereby pinpointing the light directly on the object to be illuminated. One outlet of which I am aware that carries a supply of these lights is Kronuch's Tackle in Montauk.

Leading the list of obvious beaches where parking facilities permit access to unlimited miles of waterfront are the State Parks. Among the most notable are Jones Beach, Robert Moses and the most famous of all—Montauk Point. Less prominent but capable of producing excellent fishing are such secondary parks as Wildwood, Sunken Meadow or Caumsett. For the most part, the County beaches suitable for surf fishing are located within the confines of Suffolk County. Smith Point, and its twin on the east side of Moriches Inlet, Cupsogue, coupled with Shinnecock East and Shagwong cover some of the finer fishing areas of Long Island. For the purpose of this article, Shagwong and Smith Point encompass extensive spans of shore line which, for practical purposes, cannot be entirely covered on foot. The waterfront is readily accessible to be used as much as the stamina and perseverance of the angler allows.

The next governmental body which controls extensive waterfront property are the local towns and villages. Such renowned waters as Cedar Beach, Tobay and Point Lookout fall into this category. While restrictions regarding non-residents may be enforced during the bathing season, most authorities relax the regulations before Memorial Day and after the Labor Day weekends. Some communities charge a nominal fee to use the facilities during the season.

Listing all the possible areas of productive fishing on Long Island would require much more space than is allotted here. For instance, Jones Beach alone can be fished either front, the oceanside, the west end of inlet side, or the back, the state channel side. All are excellent fishing areas requiring different techniques which can reward an angler who learns the region from the chill days of spring to the last bitter days when thoughts of Christmas shopping are on the minds of most sane people.

All of the areas mentioned are located some distance from New York City implying that City residents will have to drive a considerable distance to reach respectable fishing waters. On the contrary, Jamaica Bay, the Rockaways with the National Seashore at Breezy Point and Riis Park, the Fort Totten area and the north coast of the Sound adjacent to City Island offer City anglers premium fishing in their back yard. Late season pier fishermen can enjoy excellent bass fishing from the bulkheads lining the East and Hudson Rivers. Staten Island is an entity of its own, providing season long fishing for bass, blues, and weakfish for the knowledgeable surfman.

What must be done by fishermen desiring to continue fishing but unable to afford costly gas bills is to investigate waterfront areas close to home. Talk to old-timers about fishing prospects in past years. As a general rule, the waters are becoming cleaner with fish returning to areas abandoned because of the filth which was once dumped into their habitat.

In these days of special diets and elaborate conditioning exercises, physical fitness can be had free of charge, while pursuing one of the most rewarding pastimes: surf fishing. Park the car, stretch those legs and work the shore line as our ancestors once did. The rewards gained can be twofold: fish caught from unique areas and a sense of well being, achieved by use of heretofore idle muscles.

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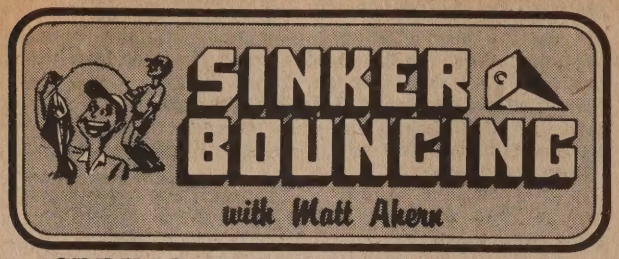
Last week the use of proper tackle needed to milk every ounce of sport from spring flounder was discussed. The old-timer and how he took advantage of every bit of fish lore he had going for him to put those flounder in his bucket was also mentioned. A personal incident describing one of those old-time methods and of the success it brought was detailed. But



SPRING FLOUNDER PRIMER

★★★ PART TWO ★★★

all this rehash won't help us here, for not one iota of it will put flounder in your bucket without some knowledge of the basics. I don't know what you consider the basics of flounder fishing, but for me they have always been terminal tackle, rigging, hooks, and chumming. And these are of utmost importance. Years ago fishermen with bare minimal skills could go out there and be assured of some measure of success. But not so today. Today's flounder fisherman must take advantage of every bit of information he can gather. Take chumming, for instance. I guess I fished flounder for fifteen years before using chum, and I suppose there are many old-timers who can tell you they did the same. In those days it was only a matter of anchoring over known flounder-producing spots and getting the bait overboard. Not much thought was given to chum, although it wasn't entirely unknown by a long shot.

By using chum, you enticed those fish from outlying areas to your baited hooks without the necessity of pulling anchor and searching for them. It saved much unnecessary back-breaking labor at the oars. Usually, though, your first spot gave you all the action desired without a bit of chum. But except for isolated instances, those days of such easy fishing are over.

A search of my records shows I didn't use chum for flounder until the spring of 1938, and this was only because on one particular day I found a small tub of bank mussels tucked under the stern seat of my rented rowboat.

Rather than ignore this find, I crushed some underfoot just before quitting for the day and sprinkled them around the boat, much like a farmer hand-feeding his flock of barnyard hens. I don't know if my catch increased because of this, as there seemed to be no change in the action. But I found that upon cleaning my fish that evening, those I'd caught toward the conclusion of the day were packed solid with these tidbits. It was something to remember and keep in mind.

But it wasn't until I returned from Service in the spring of 1946 that I found it was becoming more and more necessary to chum for flounder. What happened, I am not certain, but I imagine the tremendous pressure put upon our inshore fish stocks during the war by commercial fishermen had much to do with it. But don't blame them for that. Meat was in scarce supply and also rationed, but fish wasn't. The commercial fishermen were doing only what the government desired: easing the pressure on the demand for various meat products.

Remember, too, that there were U-Boats prowling off our coast during the entire war, and while no German submarine skipper in his right mind was about to waste a $50,000 torpedo on a small fishing boat, there were also government restrictions as to how far offshore civilian-manned boats could travel. So, flounder and other inshore fish took the full brunt of this pressure.

Let me digress here a moment. Did you know that security was so tight during the war years, saltwater fishermen had to be photographed and fingerprinted and issued a Coast Guard permit before they could even wet a line? True. I still carry mine in my wallet. Why? Darned if I know. I just do.

And let me further this digression by saying that due to offshore restrictions, fluke fishing was great during the war years. Because fluke spawn in the winter along the Continental Shelf from Long Island to below Virginia, it was impossible for large offshore trawlers to get to them at this most crucial time. And because of this there was some mighty fine inshore fluke fishing during the summers of 1942 to 1946.

Anyway, while I'm softly sobbing to myself in remembrance of this excellent fishing, let's get back to spring flounder.

Personally, I don't believe our local flounder stocks really recovered from this wartime onslaught. True, there have been good flounder years since then, but the best of these have never been as good as those before the war. And now, because of today's high fish prices, we find pressure is again being applied.

Which is why I believe we sport fishermen must now have everything going for us if we expect to become successful.

And this brings us back to chumming.

How you use chum for flounder can make or break your day. Don't ever treat chum lightly: just because you've brought chum along doesn't necessarily mean you're out of the woods. Much depends upon the current in your fishing area.

When fishing backwater bays and creeks, those places having little current, fishermen often dispense with chum pots and rely on hand-chumming, much as described before. But fishing areas near inlets, for instance, where currents are strong enough to carry freely-scattered chum away from the area of your baited hooks, calls always for the use of a chum pot to hold the fish close to the boat.

Fishermen, however, are rarely of one mind when it comes to chumming. Some will use a chum pot regardless of current; others will dispense with the pot and rely on their ability to draw fish close to the boat by tossing crushed bank mussel uptide in such a manner that it will come to rest under the boat. My thoughts on the matter are simply this: if you are a novice at flounder fishing, put your faith in the chum pot. When more experience is gained, you can experiment with the more difficult method of up-tide chumming. But for the time being, rely on the pot.

The question one hears most often about chumming is: "What makes the best chum?" Without a doubt, crushed whole bank mussel must get the nod—either in a chum pot or freely scattered about the boat. Whatever else you use will always come in second best to mussel.

And now we come to a bone of contention: canned corn. There can be no question that corn draws flounder to the baited hook. Indeed, it is a rare day when those who chum with corn fail to find some of it in the stomachs of the flounder they catch. Corn is indeed first class chum—but even with this good feature going for it, I am one fisherman who refuses to use it.

If you want to say I'm foolish, that's okay—for perhaps I am. But because I'm from the old school, I find it difficult to accept the premise that corn is harmless to the digestive system of flounder. Yes, I know what the scientific boys have to say about corn: that it has no ill effect on flounder. That's all well and good; but deep inside me exists a nagging doubt, and so long as this persists, I'll stick to more natural forage food as chum.

The same thoughts apply to uncooked rice. This, too, is a form of chum favored by fishermen, but I find the results it gives are not nearly as dependable as corn. I've tried rice experimentally on occasion and while I found it does draw flounder when currents are nil or slow moving, I have never found as much as one grain ingested by a flounder.

The primary purpose of rice seems to lie in the fact that it arouses a flounder's natural curiosity. But if this is so, it is nothing to get excited about, for I've had the same results when sprinkling broken clam shells, or

even handfuls of beach sand. In this respect, rice is a safer chum than corn. Good, bad, or indifferent, these are my thoughts on corn and rice as flounder chum.

A fair substitute for mussel in a chum pot are hard or soft clams—with the edge favoring the latter. What I like to do, though, is to crush or break a quantity of either of these clams, toss them overside, and then bait my hooks with thinly cut slices of each. You'd be surprised how well this works—especially in April.

But whatever you decide to use in a chum pot, don't forget to bounce the pot occasionally on bottom to disperse the goo into the current. Just letting the pot lie there will not do you much good.

We come now to bait, and I'll tell you, fellers, long gone are the days when we could go out armed with two or three dozen blood or sand worms and harvest a basket of fish. Today, there is such a surplus of natural food for the amount of available fish, flounder can indeed be fussy.

Flounder have always been finicky feeders (even in the days of plenty, this was true), but this trait is even more apparent today. The veteran flounder fisherman will bear me out on this, I'm sure. He knows that one day the fish will accept sand worm with great relish, and the next it will be only those fishermen who use bloodworm, or soft clam, or perhaps fresh skimmer, who will fill the bucket. There is no accounting for this. It is one of those things that make fishing so interesting—and so infuriating for the novice.

Therefore, it is to each fisherman's advantage to bring along more than one type of bait. If I were going flounder fishing tomorrow, I would certainly bring along a dozen blood or sand worms, enough bank mussel for chum and for bait, plus a pound or two of soft clams (steamers), or a half dozen hard clams (chowders), or a like amount of fresh skimmer. I would avoid frozen skimmer unless I definitely knew that salt had not been added to the package or container. In my estimation, this salted skimmer is worthless.

Red-dyed soft clam (or fresh skimmer) is often good, but for some strange reason this is not nearly so readily accepted as it once was when first used some years ago. I don't know why, and I wish I did.

If you wish to dye clams, cut the necks of soft clams into thin slices (long ways only), place them in a plastic container and add a few drops of red (or yellow) food dye. Stir with a small stick and place overnight in your refrigerator (or freezer if you're not going to use them immediately). You can also substitute hard clam for the steamers.

Use good-sized pieces of bait. Ignore the flounder's small mouth—a decent-sized flounder can easily inhale inch-and-a-half pieces of bait. This also applies to clam bait when it is thinly cut.

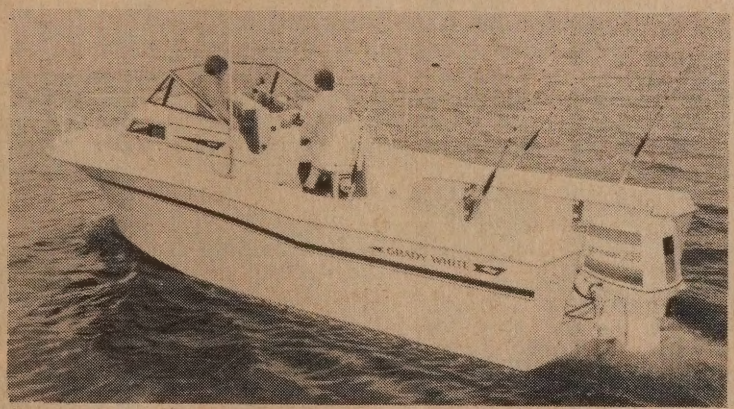
Mussel should be used as it comes from the shell. Don't slice. This excellent bait is often difficult to keep on the hook, I know, but if the hook is woven through a couple of times and then a bit wrapped around the shank, it should stay on long enough to entice a flounder—providing you don't cast with it. And if you are using chum, which you should, why in Heaven's name are you casting away from the fish?

When mussel shows signs of leaching, change it. Always use the freshest bait. And don't salt it down or steam the shells to toughen the bait. These two methods will certainly do that, but doing so will cost you fish. Flounder love soft baits and if you don't give it to them, the next guy will.

Try a different piece of bait on each of your two hooks and when you find what the fish prefer, use that exclusively. If the action slows down (usually at a tidal change), go back to varying your baits again. You might find that they now prefer a new combination. This happens often and is what was meant about finicky flounder. If you don't offer a selection of recommended baits, you can blame only yourself if the fish give you

(Continued on page 23.)

1980 GRADY-WHITE 240 OFFSHORE



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WE'RE NOT GIVING AWAY ANYTHING YET! It shouldn't be construed that any of the following letters will "Win A Shakespeare"—although they might at that. We have already stated that the first winner will be named in early April and there will be many other fine letters that come in between now and

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

Some real good letters...

then which will only make it that much harder for us to pick a winner. Still, we thought that our readers might want to see some of the real good letters that have come in in recent days.

MISS BARBARA HERRERA OF BROOKLYN WROTE: "I didn't quite understand what kind of letter you wanted for your Fish Talk contest, but I hope you like the following little item that I recently came upon. The Life and Times of Izaak Walton. Truly, back in the early days, fishing wasn't all fun and games just as it is today. During a recent visit to the library to do some research on the pioneers of early fishing, I ran across an article in an old newspaper dated back in 1642. The headline stated: The Chicken Thief of Merry Old England. It seems that Izaak Walton was falsely accused of stealing a prized rooster for its hackle feathers and was thrown in a dungeon and sentenced for five years. The story continued to tell that during part of the sentence, Izaak constructed a fly rod from his cell sleeping cot and using his native guile and some trick casting, escaped from jail. During his time as a fugitive, Izaak was hiding out in the loft of a big house on the hill, aided by a good friend by the name of Lady Ann. Now, Lady Ann had a brother named Simon, who was well respected and who was in charge of the town cockfights, but hated Izaak because he was courting his sister, knowing Izaak's real love was fishing. Izaak went into the barn one day and found the missing prize rooster mixed in with Simon's fighting cocks. Izaak exposed Simon as the real thief to the townspeople. While being led to jail, Simon swears revenge, but Izaak and Lady Ann just slowly turned away and both walked to Izaak's favorite spot on the river to match the evening hatch." All of which goes to prove that a dedicated fisherman is a dedicated fisherman and it is impossible to repress that love for fishing. Perhaps Barbara, you'll remember the story when you get married and your husband is often pointed towards the sea. Then too, since you are already very interested in fishing perhaps it will be your husband who will have to be understanding. Better still, try it this way: my wife and I both love to fish and therefore, there is mutual respect and understanding for each other's involvement in the sport.

THEN THERE WAS A LETTER FROM OLD FRIEND DON PALMER. "Last fall, while shore fishing for flounder in the back-bay areas of Oceanside and Baldwin, I noticed several fishermen casting small tins at what appeared to be a large school of snappers. These "snappers" appeared to be all over the place, as evidenced by scores of small baitfish skittering over the water in an attempt to avoid the snappers. I continued flounder fishing while observing the casts as the frenzied baitfish drew nearer to the shore. Then, one of the fishermen connected and landed a large snapper—only this one had **stripes**. Sure enough, a small striper of about seven inches was caught. After carefully returning the fish to the water, several more were caught in the five to ten inch range and then, as before, carefully released. All articles and books I have read concerning the striped bass indicate that stripers do not normally migrate until they grow to twelve or more inches in length. If this is true, I have several questions: Is it possible that we have locally spawned striped bass in the back-bay areas of Long Island? Is it possible that due to pollution problems in the traditional spawning areas of the Hudson and Chesapeake Bay that some bass are choosing to spawn here in a 'natural' attempt to perpetuate the species? If there are locally-spawned striped bass, do you think that they could have a positive effect, if left alone, of replenishing the dwindling striped bass stocks. I should like to note that I have observed and at times caught several small stripers in this area since that first memorable date. There appeared to be a rather large school of these fish in the area, and not wanting to create a 'slaughter' of these young fish by 'sport fishermen', I had elected to keep it quiet until now. I would appreciate any comments you might have regarding this subject. Good fishing in '80."

VERY INTERESTING!! Those are beauties and I don't know where to begin. First, let me say that I am no recognized expert on striped bass, although I have studied them extensively and I try to read up on anything and everything that pertains to the species. However, there are those who know far more than I. For example, you might want to write to Byron Young of the New York State DEC. Mr. Young works with the fish day-in and day-out and if something special comes to light about the species, he'll surely know about it. Still, I am interested in taking a little swim on this one because some of your questions border on an area of striped bass knowledge that I have been playing around with for some time. The **BOOK** says (the book is all the knowledge taken to be fact) that bass only spawn in major areas such as the Hudson River and the Chesapeake. Actually, until siltation, pollution, and over-activity destroyed many fine but small river systems along the northeast, bass spawned in most rivers. On the other hand, sampling in recent years has discovered ripe female bass in the open ocean at a variety of locations including Montauk in July. Some have suggested that the ripe bass reflect uncompleted spawning because of pollution in the Chesapeake. Some say that the chief chemical culprit is PCBs. Now, according to the book, bass spawn in early spring and if the book is right about this, then it seems unlikely that ripe females would retain their eggs into July. Typically among the fishes, if spawning is not completed and some females are left with their eggs intact, either the eggs will be released and go unfertilized or they will be re-absorbed so that by July ripe eggs should not be present. The presence of the eggs at this time of the year has caused some scientists to re-examine the book. They have theorized that perhaps the spawning of the bass is staggered from early spring into the early fall. Although the bulk of the spawning takes place in the early spring, some fish develop at a later date. Now, if these fish migrate and if they attempt to spawn, one is left with the conclusion that the fish must spawn outside the Hudson or the Chesapeake. Some biologists have suggested the possibility that some minor spawning may occur in small brackish tributaries that feed such large estuaries as the Great South Bay and the Peconic Bays. There have been reports, for example, of relatively large schools of very small bass working deep inside the Connetquot River in April. Some experts have suggested that these are young bass that have been spawned in that river, while others suggest that they are young migrants who have wintered over in the river rather than make the long trip south. Which gets us into the area of your second question. Yes, the **BOOK** says that bass do not migrate at the tender size of five or six inches, yet I, too, have seen them and caught them from time to time. The latest case occurred this summer when I found myself literally surrounded by bass of this size. The only reason that I caught a few is because I had a very small teaser tied ahead of my plug. All of these midgets were taken on the teaser. This took place in the

Sound and in several different places at that: no back bays, no river, rather open Long Island Sound. Why were these tiny bass swimming and feeding so aggressively in open water? These may be bass that had been spawned locally, although I doubt it in this instance. Rather, it is more likely that recent large year classes of bass in the Hudson has increased competition among the young fish in the river, thus causing a certain percentage of them to migrate prematurely out of the river in order to avoid this competition. We can't be too sure what becomes of these little fish although from reports of great small bass fishing in the East River in December, it would appear that many if not all returned to the river. Thus, we are led to your third question. Can locally spawned bass—either from the Hudson or perhaps the brackish back-bays—have a positive effect on striped bass stocks. Last year, I was asked to prepare testimony on this point and what I reported was that fish are no different from other types of living things when it comes to adaptation and evolution. Animals will always migrate in an attempt to find better conditions when competition, predation, and available food begin to discourage the success of a species rather than enhance it. We are now all very certain that the Chesapeake bass have not spawned well within recent years and thus competition in the Chesapeake is down. Thus, Hudson fish, as explained in my column of several weeks ago, will tend to enlarge their range in order to minimize high competition in their waters. When they do so, they will encounter a stock that is declining and thus will fill-in by feeding and maybe even spawning in the area where stocks are down. Thus, it is possible that there will be an exchange of genetic information and that the new information may help the bass of one "stock" group to overcome its spawning difficulties.

BASS ARE HARDY! The reason that striped bass have been able to survive in the face of changing climatic conditions, alterations in baitfish abundance patterns, pollution, and heavy fishing pressure because they are extremely adaptable. Perhaps this possible capacity to exchange genetic information is part of that adaptabilty. This in no way means that we can turn our backs on bass. Even during the years of great abundance, in the early part of this decade, no one suggested that. Bass require a sound management plan in much the same way that other highly sought after species have required good management plans to promote their continued abundance. Certainly, part of that management plan should be a way to prevent so-called sportsmen from harvesting tremendous quantities of shorts each year. No one is above the law and the law says that the fish must go back unless they are sixteen inches or longer. To keep them prematurely, represents a tremendous waste of a most valuable natural resource.

SINKER BOUNCING: SPRING FLOUNDER

(Continued from page 21.)

the cold shoulder.

Rigging is simple. Tandem-tie two #9 Chestertown hooks (or two #6 regular shank Sproats) and place the completed rig above a suitable bank sinker, using a one-inch loop made with a double-overhand knot.

To tandem tie is easy. Take two hooks and fold the snell of one at its middle. Take this fold and run it through the knotted loop of the second hook. This second hook is then placed through the fold, drawn up snugly, and secured with a common overhand knot. Takes but seconds, but practice it a bit before you go out.

Next week we'll get into the actual catching of flounder.

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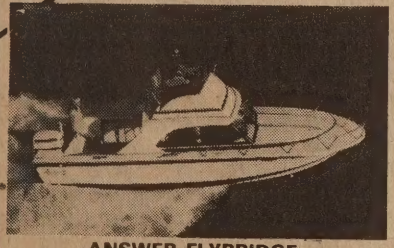
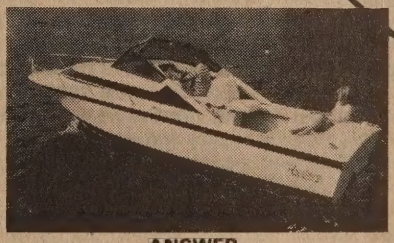
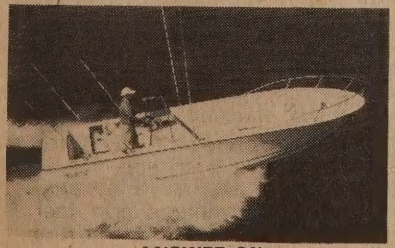


ANSWER FLYBRIDGE SPORT FISHERMAN 24

SEA STAR V-24'

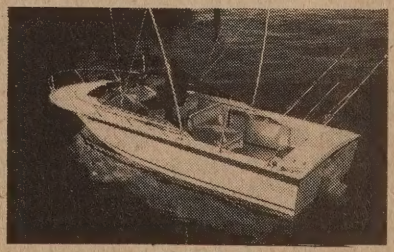


ANSWER SUPERSPORT 24



ANSWER 24' CENTER CONSOLE

SEA STAR V-27'



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JOHNSON OUTBOARDS

THE CASE FOR A SALTWATER FISHING LICENSE

★PART TWO★

Why is a Saltwater License Inevitable?

Hard as it may be for many recreational fishermen to accept, the implementation of a marine recreational fishing license is inevitable. With this conviction in mind, L.I.F. took the bull by the horns in our February 7th editorial "The Saltwater License: Fighting the Inevitable?" and asked our readers to re-evaluate their thinking on the saltwater licensing issue, and consider the very real possibility that by fighting the inevitable we may be cutting off our nose to spite our face. For those of you who may have missed this editorial, we are reprinting the first four paragraphs:

"Nobody wants a saltwater fishing license. It just goes against the basic beliefs of most fishermen. The belief that we shouldn't be required to have a license in order to catch a fish in saltwater. The belief that the sport of fishing is one our last great freedoms that we shouldn't have to pay for. The belief that if government gets involved with our sport they will only make it a shambles, as they have everything else they've ever become involved in. The belief that any money raised from fishing license fees would only be wasted by a government bureaucracy. The belief that a saltwater license would become just another unnecessary tax. The belief that the money necessary to protect our marine environment should come from sources other than license fees, such as the general fund. The belief that government should look out for our marine resources on its own, without any pressure being put upon them to do so. The belief that our rights as citizens of the United States and residents of New York should be protected by government even though we remain politically unorganized and impotent. The belief that if we continue to fight a saltwater fishing license there will never be one—now, or in the foreseeable future.

"But beliefs are one thing, reality another. We at THE FISHERMAN also have these beliefs, and wish they could be so. But as we enter our fifteenth year of publishing we look around us, and are forced to see things as they really are. And although we don't like what we see, we must accept it. Although we wish things could be different, they aren't. So we must bite the bullet and tell our readers the reality of the situation. It may be a bitter pill to swallow, but we would be remiss in our responsibility to our readership by saying that we should continue to fight the very concept of a saltwater fishing license, and that nothing would be lost by doing so. But the time has come for us to face reality, and accept the implementation of a saltwater fishing license as being inevitable. We must accept the very real possibility that by continuing to fight the inevitable, we are losing the opportunity to ensure that a license will be beneficial to recreational fishermen. We must accept the fact that by continuing to fight the inevitable we are taking ourselves out of the formulating process that will decide what form a saltwater license will take. Who will impose the license—the state or Federal Government? How much will it cost? How will the money be spent? Will it be used to improve recreational fishing opportunities, or will it just become another tax? What effect will a license have on the recreational fishing industry? Will a license protect the rights of sport fishermen in the face of a rapidly expanding commercial fishing industry? Will sport fishermen have input into the rules and regulations placed on them, or will this be done by political hacks who have neither interest nor knowledge of recreational fishing?

"We have been asking ourselves these and many other questions for several years now, and we don't like the answers. After studying the problem at great length, and in light of recent events such as the Nassau/Suffolk Regional Plan unveiled last week that called for the implementation of a saltwater fishing license, we have reached several conclusions. We have come to the conclusion that now, for the first time, sport fishermen must actively seek to have input into what form a fishing license will take. We have come to the conclusion that if sport fishermen do not start talking seriously about a license, there will be one anyway—but instead of being a benefit that will serve to improve the quality of our sport, the license will just become another tax. We have come to the conclusion that saltwater sport fishermen have much more to lose by fighting against a license than actively seeking one. And finally, we have concluded that saltwater sport fishermen stand to gain much more by fighting for a good, well structured license than waiting to have a meaningless one shoved down our throats.

"At most, the implementation of a saltwater fishing license will mean that individual fishermen will lose the $5 or $6 a year that the license will cost. But if the license is structured correctly, we stand to gain improved fishing facilities such as more boat launching ramps, public docking, artificial fishing reefs and increased access to fishing on beaches, piers and bridges. A properly structured saltwater fishing license would also give New York's 2.3 million saltwater sport fishermen the political influence that our numbers and economic power deserve. A properly structured license will mean that we will finally be recognized by the state government as the powerful economic and political force that we are. There is no question that if New York State's millions of recreational saltwater fishermen were to be licensed that they would become the largest, strongest lobby in the State. We could no longer be ignored by an indifferent bureaucracy, and the State would have to protect the rights of millions of fishermen paying for a license against unrestricted commercial fishing and the industries that would pollute our waters and destroy our marine environment for profit. We believe that all this and more can be accomplished, but only if the license is properly structured. So if there is going to be a license no matter what sport fishermen do at this point, as we believe it's

inevitable, why not shoot for the best license we can get?''

To give credence to these conclusions we have reached, and to show that we are not alone in these conclusions, we are publishing four letters that were received in response to that editorial: the first one is from Richard Stroud, the Executive Vice-President of the *Sport Fishing Institute* that is based in Washington, D.C. and is a non-profit fish conservation organization that has been fighting the Washington bureaucracy for the rights of recreational sport fishermen for many years. The second letter is from Christopher M. Weld, the Executive Director of the *National Coalition for Marine Conservation*, based in Boston, Mass., which is also a non-profit organization that is national in scope and has been fighting the government bureaucracy on behalf of recreational fishermen. The third piece of correspondence is from Henry Lyman, Publisher of the *Salt Water Sportsman*, who has the benefit of more than forty years of experience in publishing a national sport fishing magazine upon which to base his conclusions. The last letter is from Elwood Harry, President of the *International Game Fish Association*, which needs no introduction.

Letter dated February 28, 1908 from:
RICHARD H. STROUD
Executive Vice President
SPORT FISHING INSTITUTE

For more than twenty years, my organization has believed that saltwater anglers would reap only benefit—in terms of fishery research, facilities development, habitat protection and enhancement, and fish stock management—if they would accept licensing much as for freshwater fishing. With the establishment, several years ago, of the 200-Mile Limit and the organization of the several Regional Fishery Management Councils, charged to manage the coastal fisheries, we believe that licensing of saltwater anglers has become an urgent necessity.

It is necessary, in our view, if anglers want to continue to enjoy their saltwater angling privilege. The Councils, heavily dominated overall by commercial fishing interests, are in the process of writing fishery management plans for all the important fish stocks. In the process they must, by statutory mandate, allocate the harvestable surpluses of these stocks among the various user groups. Anglers will almost certainly lose out as the pieces of the marine fisheries pie are cut up and distributed.

They will come up short because (1) they are not counted with undeniable accuracy and precision, and (2) their fishing effort and harvest cannot be established with statistical-acceptability (absent licensing) except at exorbitant cost. They will come up short because, lacking recognized political clout, they will be unable to marshall the representation and funding to support the recreational fisheries programs that are needed to assure continued fishing opportunity in the face of increasing competition for both the water and fish resources.

We believe strongly that the time is fast upon us when marine sport fishermen must be willing to stand up and be counted. We are convinced that, as fishery plans are developed and harvestable surpluses are allocated, anglers will be counted in—if licensed, or counted out—if not. We believe that is the simple challenge to which anglers must respond. The choice is not mine or SFI's, or yours—it is up to the angler.

So, I congratulate you for telling it like it is in your February 7th editorial. You are doing a service and meeting one of your greatest responsibilities by providing a forum for debate and reader response. We look forward to the results of your reader survey with intense interest. Thank you for your perceptive analysis of the problem. You've hit it right on the nose, as we see it. Sincerely yours, Richard H. Stroud, Executive Vice President.

Letter dated February 26, 1980 from:
CHRISTOPHER M. WELD
Executive Director
NATIONAL COALITION FOR
MARINE CONSERVATION

Your February 7th editorial concerning the saltwater fishing license aptly captures my own sentiments: that is, nobody really wants to be licensed, but it is almost inevitable that they will be sooner or later.

A year ago the directors of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation adopted a resolution favoring uniform state licensing of recreational fishermen PROVIDED THAT (a) such licenses are reciprocal among adjoining states, (b) all license revenues are maintained in a segregated account, (c) no more than thirty percent of license revenues are expended for administrative and enforcement purposes, and (d) license revenues may only be spent for recreational fishing programs approved by a non-political review board. In announcing the Coalition's policy we were careful to point out that licensing must come in response to the demands of a clear majority of saltwater anglers and not otherwise; nevertheless, we took a lot of heat for this policy statement.

Despite widespread criticism and continuous reflection over the intervening year, I am convinced that our directors were right and the reasons for their decision are more valid than ever. Like everything else, the costs of running state recreational fishing programs have gone up, but because the cost of everything else has gone up, state legislatures are becoming increasingly reluctant to meet the cost of recreational fishing programs. The taxpayer is getting squeezed to death, and the legislator can't look to the taxpayer to cough up unlimited revenues. The goose can lay only so many golden eggs.

The legislators' first concern is to get re-elected; where revenues are limited he will vote for programs having the broadest impact on the electorate. In this climate it is unrealistic to expect fish and wildlife programs to compete successfully for the legislative dollar. It is only logical to expect that funds for recreational fishing programs will be increasingly difficult to come by. On the other hand, the needs in terms of biological research, beach access, hatcheries and management have never been greater.

Even if your views on this issue did not coincide with those of the Coalition, I would still have to commend LIF for its responsible and courageous treatment of this issue. Sincerely yours, Christopher M. Weld, Executive Director, National Coalition for Marine Conservation.

Letter dated February 8, 1980 from:
HENRY LYMAN
Publisher
SALT WATER SPORTSMAN

As you know, many people think that those working in the publishing business in the saltwater fishing field for different periodicals are automatically enemies. As you also know, the opposite is true since every effort made by one to improve marine angling will help the other, both directly and indirectly.

So, as one friend to another, let me congratulate you on the editorial in your February 7th issue concerning the license question. I agree with your approach to this very emotional question one hundred percent.

If fishermen do not get together to insist that any marine angling license funds be earmarked for improvement in our fishing, the bureaucrats and politicians will force a bill down our throats without any regard whatsoever for the fisheries, management of those fisheries, or the fishermen themselves. Anglers

MUST participate right now in forming policy concerning establishment of a license program. There is no question whatsoever that some sort of licensing program is coming in the future and we should all work together to ensure that the final product is what we want—not what some faceless governmental featherbedder wants.

All of us here at SALT WATER SPORTSMAN will watch the results of your reader survey with great interest. There will be some diehards who will never agree to such a measure, but my bet is that the majority will agree to your approach after the alternatives, which are frightening, have been presented.

Congratulations again—and best of luck. Cordially, Henry Lyman, Publisher.

Letter dated February 15, 1980 from:
ELWOOD K. HARRY
President
INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION

I have listened to all the arguments for and against this type of license, and I have also reviewed the various state proposals and their regulations where a license is in effect. I do believe that some form of licensing is inevitable whether the anglers like it or not.

I have heard all kinds of negative statements, some passive and some quite violent; but I have heard few concrete proposals from the angling community. There are many benefits that can result from a properly planned saltwater license if the planning is well thought out.

Accepting the inevitability of a license, it would seem that the effort of the anglers should be to work closely with their state government agencies and their legislatures to ensure that the regulations are in the best interest of the angling community.

The angling needs vary from state to state and so should the regulations. Many of the needed projects in the various states will not be met unless the state initiates the effort, and it has been proven that the states will not include these amounts of money in their regular budgets. Great improvements can be effected in behalf of the saltwater anglers if the regulations are properly drawn up and the moneys are channeled into the proper projects. The cost to each angler would be small.

Freshwater licensing has shown the authorities the strength and size of the angling community, and the results are shown in the benefits accruing to the angling community. Unfortunately, the amount of saltwater anglers is not reflected in any meaningful statistics, and the weight of their combined force has not been evidenced. Saltwater licensing certainly would constantly bring the magnitude of this group of people into proper focus and would make authorities pay more than lip service to the angling needs.

The proper use of license funds could help the saltwater angler immeasurably. It would provide ongoing funds that otherwise would not accrue to the anglers' benefit. We have not supported the various state proposals because we have been of the opinion that the regulations were not in the best interest of the anglers. Maybe the anglers could either propose their own regulations or work with the state authorities to develop regulations that are in the best interest of the anglers. It might surprise many people as to what might be accomplished through such an effort. Sincerely yours, Elwood K. Harry, President.

All four organizations have reached two conclusions: not only is a saltwater license inevitable, but at this point in time it is also a *necessity* if, as Dick Stroud states in his letter, *"anglers want to continue to enjoy their saltwater angling privilege.* A license is the *first* necessary step towards recreational fishermen achieving the political clout that will allow us to deal on an equal footing with the commercial fishing industry *"...as the pieces of the marine fisheries pie are cut up and distributed"* by the state and Federal governments. A license is the *only* means by which the monies will become available that are necessary to provide fishermen with better access to fishing grounds via boat launching ramps, fishing piers, artificial fishing reefs, beach access, etc.

But even if a license weren't necessary to achieve political clout and improve fishing facilities, we are still confronted with the fact that a license is inevitable. Based on our many discussions with readers on the phone and via your letters, many of you are under the mistaken belief that if we all get together and fought a license in New York that we could win. This would be true if not for one fact: New York is still a part of the United States of America, and as such it is only one of many states sharing the coastal waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Each state has a territorial jurisdiction of three miles that abuts the territorial waters of at least two adjoining states, with the exception of Florida and Maine. We hate to say it, but one must think of the coastal states as a row of dominoes stood on edge—as falls one, so fall the others. The old domino theory, in effect. If just *one* of the coastal states adopts and implements a saltwater license, within a short time the rest not only will, but *MUST* follow with their own licenses. To see why, let's look at a hypothetical situation.

One of the states that has been having a considerable amount of serious discussion on implementing a saltwater fishing license is Delaware, and each legislative session the license is closer to reality. Let's suppose that next spring the license advocates in Delaware are successful in getting a license put into effect which will cost residents $5.00 per year.

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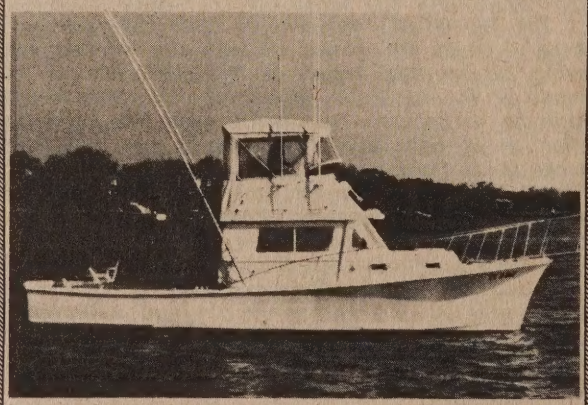

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Naturally, non-residents would also be required to purchase a license (at a higher fee) if they want to fish in the territorial waters of Delaware. So what happens when the first fisherman from the State of Maryland or New Jersey gets a fine for fishing without a license in Delaware's territorial waters? In the case of Maryland, many Delaware anglers fish in Chesapeake Bay, much of which is in Maryland's territorial waters. The obvious reaction is that Maryland will quickly implement its *own* license, and require *Delaware* fishermen to purchase a non-resident license. Naturally this would not be popular with the anglers from either state, who would now be required to purchase two licenses. So the next step is that the states would give each other reciprocal privileges. If you hold a Maryland license you can fish in Delaware, and vice versa.

Now enter New Jersey—the same scenario holds true. To protect *its* anglers, Jersey would *also* have to implement a license with reciprocal privileges. And although the license comes as a response to the Delaware situation, New York now becomes involved. Fishermen sailing out of New York who fish in the New York Bight regularly fish in New Jersey waters, and Jersey boats regularly fish ours. For example, look at the Romer Shoals area. To fish the west bank of Romer, New York fishermen would have to buy a non-resident license to fish in Jersey waters, but New Jersey fishermen could fish the east bank (which is in New York waters) without a license. To stop this one-way boat traffic, New York would be forced to implement its *own* license with reciprocal privileges so that if a fisherman was licensed in one of the two states he wouldn't have to be licensed in the other. *Only* in this manner will fishermen be able to fish in the waters of other states without being forced to buy a license for every state he fishes in.

So now New York has a license...where does that leave Connecticut and Rhode Island and the anglers from those states that fish Block Island Sound and Long Island Sound? When they implement *their* own license, next goes Massachusetts—followed by New Hampshire and Maine. The same domino effect would also spread to the south: when Maryland goes, Virginia and the Carolinas fall right behind it. Actually, the States would not implement the license in any particular pecking order. The point is that once the *FIRST* state implements a license, the others will be forced to do the same, regardless of whether that state shares coastal waters with it. Our guess is that from the time that the first state passes a saltwater license bill into law, the other thirteen Atlantic coastal states will all have their own licenses in effect within two years.

Thus the inevitability of a license, no matter what we do in New York. And now for the danger: once the first state implements a license, the politicians and bureaucrats of New York will have their ready made excuse to force a license on us *"for your own protection."* And don't think for a minute that they are going to be thinking about how the money is going to be spent—they could care less if it is spent on facilities that those paying the bill need. Subsidizing mass transit fares, welfare, schools, political slush funds, yes—but money for a launching ramp on Long Island? You've got to be kidding. So we'll be stuck with having to pay for a license that is nothing more than a tax.

And like it or not, that's the way it is folks. The only way to prevent this from happening is to fight *now* for a properly structured license that will assure that the monies will be spent where they may do some good for recreational fishing. We believe that the model license outlined in Part One of this series (March 6th, Issue No. 10) will do just that. Next week, Part Four will discuss how this model license will prevent it from becoming just another tax or political slush fund.

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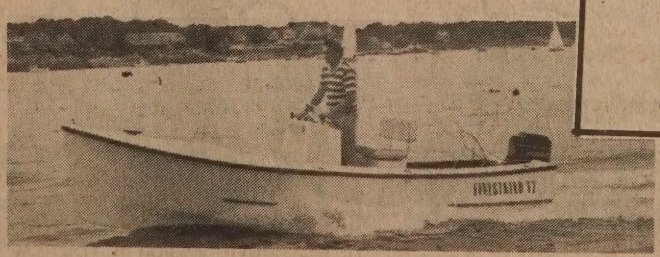

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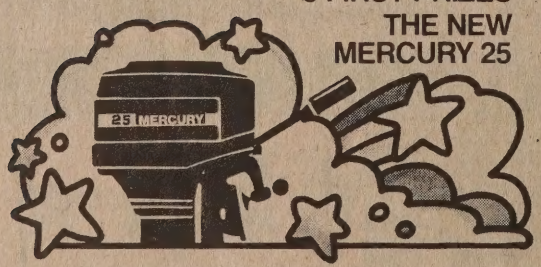

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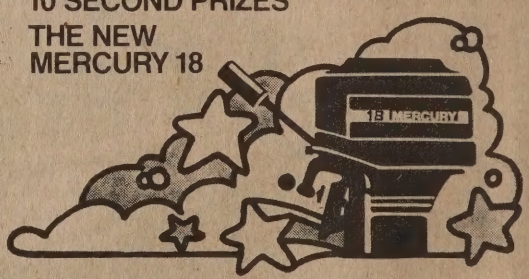

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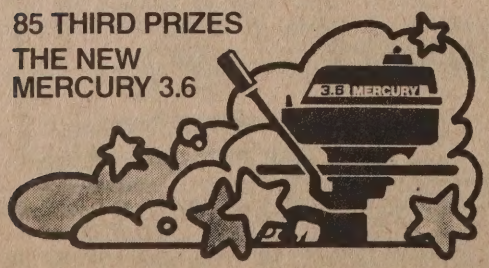

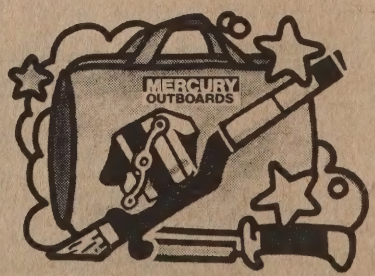

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Are You on the Right Wavelength?

Part Two

by Einar "Doc" Grell

Winter surf wave approximately 25 feet high typical of Hawaii.

What are Swells and Groundswells? How Do You Measure Such?

Winds raise waves and as waves move out from under the wind, the crests of the waves become rounded, lower, and more symmetrical. These waves move in trains of similar height and period, traveling for hundreds of miles until they strike land. In this condition, waves are known as swells or groundswells and lend themselves to fairly good measurement with which all boatmen should have some familiarization. Although each wave moves forward with a velocity that corresponds to its length, the energy of the wave group moves with a velocity only half that of the individual waves. This is due to the fact that the waves at the front of a wave group lose energy to those behind and gradually disappear while new waves form at the rear of the group. The composition of the wave group changes continually and the swells at a distance are but remote descendants of the waves created in a faraway storm. You can measure the period of a wave quite easily. However, you must realize that the energy of the wave train you are studying traveled from the storm at only half the speed you determined from studying the period of the wave at hand.

Before navigating an inlet such as that of Fire Island, everyone should spend a few moments studying the wave train, the groundswell and determine the speed of the waves striking the shallow water entrance before attempting an exit. If a wave train is approaching the inlet at a speed of thirty-five miles per hour with a groundswell height of ten feet accompanied by surf with no considerable time lapse between trains of approaching waves, you would have to be out of your mind to attempt inlet passage in a slow-moving boat. On the other hand, even with a fast-moving boat—let's say one capable of forty miles per hours—you could easily find your planing off a thirty-five mile per hour breaker into the trough of the next wave in the train. Can your boat take this airborne condition and the resulting slamming of your hull into a fast moving wave trough? Maybe, maybe not! What about your return trip through the inlet under the same conditions assuming, of course, you got into the ocean on your exit?

If you have a slow boat, there is always the danger of pitch-poling caused by a large wave rapidly passing beneath your boat which, as it crests and breaks, causes your stern to be uplifted and thrown over your bow as your boat actually dives downhill into the trough. The other possibility or problem to contend with is a large curling wave causing your boat to proceed sideways downhill on the wave with you losing steerage of the boat. This is the sideways tip-over condition known as broaching—a navigational nightmare for slow moving boats attempting passage through an inlet besieged with heavy seas.

Groundswells in the open ocean move in water deeper than half their wavelength. The bottom has practically no effect on these waves because the water particle orbits diminish so rapidly with depth that at a depth of half the wavelength, the orbits are only four percent as large as those at the surface. Groundswells move at a speed in miles per hour approximately 3.5 times the period in seconds. Before you attempt an inlet exit note: if it takes ten seconds for two crests of a groundswell to pass a given point, such as that of your boat, you multiply the ten seconds (which you just clocked) times 3.5, and **voila** the speed of the groundswell is thirty-five miles per hour. Elementary math, right?

Factors to consider: what the groundswell does when it strikes the shallower water, the height of the waves produced, the speed of your boat, how much you want to go fishing, how much wave pound your boat can take, and the degree of your adventuresome or masochistic impulses have now produced a problematic life situation which only you can solve. One thing for sure, you do have scientific facts with which to make your decision. My point: don't be too much in a hurry to

run through an inlet. Look at the conditions which prevail. Study the wave train, the groundswell speed, the height of the breaking waves, determine which way the current is going, and take inventory of your boating skills. Then make your decision.

The average speed of groundswells reaching United States shores is approximately thirty-five miles per hour. Swell speed is usually much faster than one thinks and is usually faster than the speed of most boats. Think about this factor.

How Do You Figure out Wavelength?

If you desire to determine wavelength, learn the following simple equation. Length = 5.12T(2). T equals the time between crests. The relationship between period and wavelength is simple. A ten second wave will have a deep water wavelength of about 512' (10 squared equals 100x5.12 = 512). The longest period of swells ever reported is 22.5 seconds which corresponds to a wavelength of around 2600' and a speed of seventy-eight miles per hour!

What Do Waves Do When They Strike Shore?

As waves reach water shallower than half their wavelength, several interesting things happen. Wave length decreases, height increases, and the speed of the wave is reduced since the depth of water controls the speed. Only the period of the wave remains unchanged. Shallow bottoms greatly modify the waves. The first thing to occur is the refraction of waves which is nothing more than a bending of waves to conform to the shape of the underwater contours. Secondly, when the water becomes critically shallow at a water depth of 1.3 times the wave height, the water supply for the wave is reduced and the particles of water in the crest of the wave have no room to complete their cycle. Thus, the wave form breaks in what is known as a breaker. The resulting turbulence and foam produced is known as surf or foam line which proceed up onto the beach in a gentle wash known as uprush. The area of gentle uprush and outrush is called the swash zone. This is the spot where you will find surfcasters.

How Do Waves Bend?

How waves refract, bend onto headlands and, in turn, expend their energy should be of considerable interest to both fishermen and boatmen because it is on and around these headlands where we get increased wave activity and resulting wipeouts by surfcasters, boat overturns, jetty destruction—you name it. Why is this so? Near a headland the part of the wave front that reaches shallow water first is slowed down and the parts of it in relatively deep water continue to move rapidly. The wave thus bends to converge on these headlands from all sides. As it does, the energy is concentrated in less length of wave crest. Consequently, the height of the crest is increased and larger waves are produced. Another segment of the same swell will enter an embayment and the wave front will become elongated so that the height of the waves at any point along the shore is correspondingly low. This is why bays make quiet anchorages and exposed promontories are subject to wave battering and erosion—all by the same waves.

It is at these wave breaking promontories where surfcasters and boat trollers always appear to gather for maximum fish catch.

What are the effects of sandbars, shoals, etc., on waves?

Small bumps on the ocean bottom, sandbars, a shipwreck...you name it—all can act as a refractive mirror to converge breaking waves on a particular point of beach. Wave heights can be increased to 3.5 times average height at these refractive points of wave impact. For the careless troller approaching a headland unawares that wave heights can be almost four times the height of waves previously experienced in his troll to this point, the end product could be disastrous. I have witnessed several capsizings owing to just such circumstances. Remember the points, headlands, jetties, breakwaters, sand spits, etc....you name them—"the point draws the waves."

How is surf produced?

The changing of a normal groundswell by shoal or shallow water into a breaker is a fascinating and hypnotic transformation. The waves have been shortened and steepened in the final approach because the bottom has squeezed the circular orbital motion of the water particles into a tilted ellipse. The particle velocity in the crest increases and the waves peak up as they rush landsward. Finally, the front of the wave crest is unsupported and it collapses into the trough. The wave has broken and the orbits exist no more. If the broken wave passes into deeper water, as it does after breaking on a bar, it can form again with a lesser height that represents the loss of energy in breaking. Then it, too, will break as it moves into a depth critical to its new height.

How do you measure the depth of water beneath a breaker?

The depth of water beneath a breaker measured down from the still water level is at the moment of breaking about 1.3 times the height of the breaker.

How do you measure the height of a breaker?

To estimate the height of a breaker even though it is well offshore, one walks from the top of the beach down until the crest of the breaking wave is seen aligned with the horizon. The vertical distance between the eye and the lowest point to which the water retreats on the face of the beach is then equal to the height of the wave. Try this easy computation. It works.

What are Shorebreaks?

The steepness of the bottom influences the character of the breakers. When a large swell is forced by an abrupt underwater slope to give up its energy rapidly, it forms violently plunging breakers and waves that curl far over, flinging the crest into the trough ahead. Sometimes the air is trapped by the collapsing wave and is compressed

(Continued on next page.)

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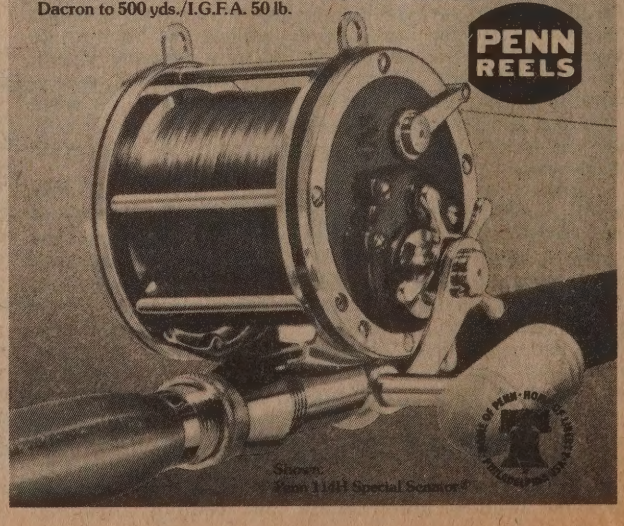

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and exploded with a great roar. If you as a wader, surfcaster, or boatman ever find yourself in this area, GET OUT. Your back could be snapped like a pretzel. If your boat ever becomes part of this zone, leave your boat as soon as possible. The end has arrived for your boat.

However, if the bottom slope is long and gentle, the wave crest forms a spilling breaker, a line of foam that tumbles down the front of the partly broken wave as it continues to move shoreward. These are the nice waves for riding with mattresses, surfboards and water skidders. These waves are not out to kill you. Even a lateral flip-over here in a small boat would probably do nothing more than soak your motor and put you in the "friendly" drink. You could pull your boat out of the swash zone and come back another day for Round 2. Remember that the pressure imposed by a 5' or 6' wave is minimal as compared with that of a twenty-five foot wave.

What are other types of big wave disturbance?

So-called tidal waves or tsunamis are large waves caused by underwater earthquakes, volcanoes, or submarine landslides. Tsunamis have been clocked at more than three hundred miles per hour and have had wave heights recorded as high as one hundred thirty feet. They are the most terrifying phenomena known to man, responsible for some of the worst disasters in human history. A tsunamis which occurred in the Pacific in 1946 originating off Attu in the Aleutians Islands affected the coasts of South American more than 7000 miles away. Tsunamis are quite rare in the Atlantic Ocean while quite common in the Pacific where they occur at a frequency of one every twenty-five years.

The dimensions of tsunamis dwarf all of our usual standards of measurement. An ordinary sea wave is rarely more than a few hundred feet long from crest to crest, no longer than 320' in the Atlantic or 1,000' in the Pacific. But a tsunami often extends more than 100 miles and sometimes as much as 600 miles from creast to crest. While a wind wave never travels at more than 60 miles per hour, the velocity of a tsunamis in the open sea must be reckoned within hundreds of miles per hour. The greater depth of the water, the greater is the speed of the wave. In the deep waters of the Pacific these waves reach a speed of 500 miles per hour. Tsunamis in the open sea are so shallow that they are hardly detectable. Their amplitude sometimes is as little as two feet from trough to crest. However, when they approach shallow water on shore they build up to their terrifying heights. These giant waves are much more dangerous on flat shores than on steep shores. They usually range from twenty to sixty feet in height, but when they pour into a V-shaped harbor or inlet, they rise to mountainous proportions.

Generally the first salvo of a tsunamis is a rather sharp swell, not different enough from an ordinary wave to alarm casual observers. This is followed by a tremendous rush of water away from the shore as the first great trough arrives. Reefs and sandbars are left high and dry and the beaches are covered with strands of fish. At Hilo in the Hawaiian Islands in 1946, large numbers of people ran out to inspect the amazing spectacle of the denuded beach. Many of them paid for their curiosity with their lives, for some minutes later the first giant wave poured over the shore.

A tsunamis is not a single wave, but a series. The waves are separated by intervals of fifteen minutes to an hour or more because of their great length. This first time interval has lulled people into thinking that after the first great wave has crashed, that it is all over. The waves, however, may keep coming for hours. Usually the third to the eighth wave in the series is the biggest. The onrush and retreat of these waves causes a great hissing, roaring, and rattling sound.

Oftentimes people living in volcanic areas retreat to the mountains when the first waves hit. When they arrive at higher ground, they then think that they will be buried by landslides and then return in panic to the low-lying coastal areas only to be drowned by the next wave.

Are tides waves?

Tides are in actuality true waves and are caused by the gravitational influence of the sun and the moon. As these bodies change their relative positions the ocean water is attracted into a bulge that tends to remain facing the moon as the earth turns under it. A similar bulge travels around the earth on the opposite side. The wave period therefore usually corresponds to half the lunar day or twelve hours. When the sun and the moon are aligned with the earth, the tides are large. We call these spring tides. When the two bodies are at right angles with respect to the earth, the tides are small—which we call neap tides. By using astronomical data, it is possible to predict tides with considerable accuracy. However, the height and time of the tide at any given place not on the open coast are primarily a function of the shape and size of the connection to the ocean. Thus we have tide charts for specific areas.

Much can be said about waves and more will be said about them in the future as more research is conducted. They are phenomena of beauty as well as phenomena of terror. Respect them. Learn something about them, especially if you are a boatman and fisherman.

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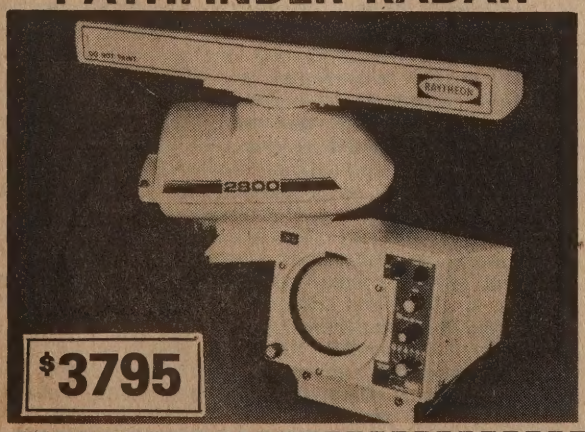

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Selecting Spin Tackle

by Al Ristori

Spinning reels are now such standard equipment that the latest generation of anglers probably think they've been around forever. In point of fact, spinning reels have been around forever. In point of fact, spinning reels have been around a long time. However, they were almost unknown in the United States until servicemen brought them back from Europe after World War II. Even then, it took some years before they gained general acceptance.

Looking back on it now, it's not hard to realize the trauma faced by the average angler in the Fifties when confronted with a reel that was supposed to be used upside-down, and which was reeled with the weaker hand. It's little wonder that spinning didn't catch on overnight and, in fact, still is not the dominant force in all parts of the country. Just as is the case today with CB radios, graph recorders and Loran Cs, improved technology and mass marketing brought the spinning reel down sufficiently in price during the Fifties and Sixties to interest even the most skeptical. The obvious advantages of spinning won many converts, and the new system soon became the nation's best seller.

Many improvements have been made since the first spinning reels were imported from Europe, and the typical "American" spinning reel is now more closely associated with Japan than France. However, a good part of the reason for the popularity of spinning has been the development of complementary tackle. When spinning reels first entered this country, there were no rods specifically made for them. Fortunately, the boom in Fiberglas rods occurred about the same time and rods were quickly developed that had the proper guides, reel seats and actions. An even more critical problem was line. Manufacturers are constantly extolling the limpness of their monofilament, but the fact of the matter is that it is the springiness of the mono that makes it suitable for spinning. In the early days, anglers had to use braided lines, which are simply too limp to cast well on spinning reels. The only monos available at the time were made for other purposes and much too stiff. Finally, Plate (a West German firm) produced a supple mono specifically for fishing, and spinning became a great deal easier.

When I speak of spinning tackle, I am referring only to open face spinning. The closed face (or spincast) reel operates on the same principle, but is quite different in its advantages and disadvantages. That reel will be covered in another article.

Though many improvements have been made in spinning reels since they were first introduced, nothing revolutionary has occurred in all that time. Indeed, old ideas have often been brought back with great success after they've fallen into disuse. The most obvious example of that is the skirted spool. All of the big selling spinning reels up to the Seventies were internal spool models. Though the pros among surfcasters usually favored skirted spool spinners, that type of reel never caught on with other anglers and the companies which specialized in them faded away. However, the skirted spool was always popular in Europe and the Orient—and it was from the latter area that this "innovation" swept the country. Just how Daiwa's push of its skirted spool line started is still a matter of conjecture. It may well have been a masterful marketing decision, but more likely was brought about by a large surplus of unsold skirted spool reels in Japan that had to be sold somewhere! Daiwa dressed up the reels and provided great incentives to dealers to handle them. Surprisingly, even freshwater fishermen accepted them and the skirted spool started its comeback.

A more recent example of an old trick coming to life again involves the self-centering bail. This system was featured on Langley reels about twenty years ago, and wasn't heard from again until Zebco introduced its new Omega spinning reels a couple of years ago. Now several other manufacturers have produced models with this "new" feature and it looks as if it might catch on.

Areas of significant improvement since spinning reels were first introduced include roller line guides, higher gear ratios and silent anti-reverses. The original spinning reels had line guides of chromed steel, which was cut by mono in short order. Those cuts would then fray the line and result in breaks. The guides could be loosened and turned to present a new surface, but this was definitely a weak point. At first it appeared that tungsten carbide guides would do the job, as they resisted cutting by mono. However, it turned out that these guides were too rough for modern "soft" monos and the fraying problem continued. The best solution devised so far has been to permit the line guide to turn with the line as a fish runs. While this works very nicely, all roller guides must be kept clean—or they will jam up and you'll be left with a stationary line guide of dubious quality. Particularly when used in saltwater, a shot of WD-40 after every trip will do wonders for roller guides. Higher gear ratios have made spinning practical for types of fishing in which lures have to be retrieved at a rapid pace. With the original reels (most of which had ratios of little more than 3:1), it was difficult to work a popping plug for a period of time without wearing yourself out. The trend to fast retrieve has been so pronounced over the last decade that almost all of the best sellers are now 4:1 or better. Of course, it should be kept in mind that fast retrieve is a mixed blessing. As the retrieve ratio gets higher, power decreases. This isn't as great a problem as it might seem at first because there is relatively little power in spinning reels to begin with. That is why it's necessary to pump your fish in, rather than just cranking it aboard, as could be done with a conventional reel.

The silent anti-reverse is a relatively new feature whose time should have come a long time ago. The reason why spinning reels were originally constructed with a clicking sound as the reel is turned is lost in history, but the sad fact of the matter is that they've been made that way ever since. Most saltwater fishermen have learned from sad experience that the proper way to fish the spinning reel is with the anti-reverse on. Take it off and you're liable to lose the fish you've been working for when the sudden strike occurs. If your hand slips off the handle, the head will spin freely and you'll end up with a horrible mess. Some ultra-light fishermen do fight their fish with the anti-reverse off, using a method referred to as "back-reeling." However, with modern drag systems, it shouldn't be necessary to do that under normal circumstances—even with the lightest of lines. Now, you can at least buy spinning reels with optional silent

anti-reverse systems—though no manufacturer has had the gumption so far to come out with a permanent silent anti-reverse. Such a system would not only be quiet, but would probably also be a lot more reliable than the present anti-reverse systems that constitute a weak spot in most reels.

In choosing a reel, there are certain features to look for. If you're buying a well known brand you probably won't have to worry about the quality of gears and other components—provided that you stick with the better lines. Almost any spinning reel will stand up in saltwater these days if it receives even a little care—such as a spray of WD-40 after every use. Skirted spools are most popular in saltwater now and probably are more practical than internal spool models since they help keep salt and sand out of the gears. There's rarely any problem with contracting mono breaking metal spinning spools (unless the line is wound on too tightly by machine), but it is wise to stay away from plastic spools. Some reels have snap-off spools, which makes it possible to change spools quickly and without affecting your drag. This is a good feature, particularly if you want to use lines of various pound tests on the same reel.

You've probably seen some of the real pros among surfmen using reels with no bails. The finger pick-up system, which has been around a long time, is still the most foolproof arrangement. However, it is difficult to use until the technique is mastered and probably isn't very practical for the casual angler. The simple "knock-down" system used for bail tripping on the early Daiwa skirted spool reels is also pretty foolproof, but a hard swing of the handle is required to close the bail (unless you do so by hand) and this can be annoying. The trend recently has been back to internal trips—many of which now can also be closed manually. As previously noted, the self-centering bail feature is also coming back.

The convertibility of spinning reels is often touted by the manufacturers as a big feature. Actually, this really doesn't mean a thing to the average angler. After all, you're either right or left-handed and are only going to use the reel one way. A friend may benefit from this provision, but the real winner is the merchant—who doesn't have to stock two models when one will do!

When it comes to rods, there's plenty of variety on the market. The modern hollow Fiberglass rod is a great bargain and should stand up almost indefinitely if the fisherman doesn't jam it in a car door. Even the modern aluminum oxide guides will last for years, and there's not too much else to go wrong. Chrome-plated stainless steel guides are good for awhile, though Daiwa has come up with a new version (Dynaflo) that they claim is even better than aluminum oxide. Stay away from cheap steel guides in saltwater. You'll usually only find them on inexpensive rods, and you can check them out with a magnet. If it sticks—stay away!

If you do a lot of traveling, the two-piece rod makes sense. However, you'll get better actions in one-piece rods and won't have to worry about the fit of the two sections. Better two-piece rods have glass-to-glass ferrules, but it's important to be sure that the two pieces fit together firmly. In use, they'll tend to get looser and can become a problem after awhile. Metal ferrules are heavier and interfere with the action to some extent. They also tend to become permanently mated in saltwater unless they're taken apart regularly.

Just about every conceivable action has been built into Fiberglas rods, and every type of action has its place. Just what you should have will vary with the type of fishing you do—though it usually isn't as complicated as it seems. Most manufacturers have a label with recommendations right on the rod.

What features should you look for in a spinning outfit? No matter what type of fishing you do, the first thing is to decide just what you want to use the spinning rig for. Most fishermen in our area do a variety of fishing, but spinning is only suitable for certain applications. The basic advantage of spinning is the ease of casting with relatively light lures. It offers no advantage in bottom fishing, particularly when heavy weights are necessary. Therefore, you can forget about using a spinning rig for such fishing and concentrate on getting the proper outfit for the other types of fishing you do. For the surf, you'll need a medium to large spinner and a rod of nine feet or more; yet there will be little use for that outfit on a boat or in the bay. The same basic light spinning outfit that covers most freshwater situations will also do very nicely in saltwater. Weakfish, flounders, small blues and school bass are among the many inshore species that are ideally sought out with light spinning tackle. This light outfit should consist of a 6½' to 7' rod of medium action with a spinning reel that holds about 200 yards of twelve pound test.

If you're going jetty fishing, or want to cast from a boat for bigger blues and stripers, a 7' to 8' medium to medium-heavy spinning rod can be mated with a medium saltwater spinning reel which holds about 250 yards of fifteen pound test. With the two outfits described, you can cover just about every inshore saltwater situation. Add a nine foot rod to the medium reel and you can even try surfcasting before getting involved in large expenditures for a sport you may not pursue regularly.

If you are getting into surfcasting, you'll also have to give quite a bit of thought to just where you'll be fishing—and for what. For casting lures along a sandy beach, I generally recommend a medium spinning reel and nine foot medium action rod with a fast taper tip. However, that outfit is far from perfect in other surf situations. Heavier gear is often used in rocky areas, and much heavier rods are required to throw heavy sinkers in such high surf areas as the North Carolina Outer Banks. Your best bet is to observe what the better fishermen in the area you frequent are using and buy something similar. Frequently their rods will be custom made, but a good variety of brand name surf rods is available—except in one-piece versions.

Though saltwater anglers rarely think of anything else, there are presently many alternatives to Fiberglas rods. Graphite became popular with freshwater fishermen during the Seventies, and is now becoming commonplace. The cost is still high for this "exotic" material, but it has come down quite a bit since it was first introduced. Graphite is lighter than Fiberglas and is also stiffer. This results in a very light, but powerful rod with great sensitivity. There was a great deal of breakage in early graphite rods, but that isn't as great a problem now.

An excellent compromise between the excellent, but expensive, qualities of graphite and dependable Fiberglas has been the graphite-glass composite rod. There are many versions of these rods, some of which actually contain very little graphite. Actually, most "graphite" rods aren't one hundred percent graphite to begin with. Some manufacturers feel that a small amount of glass makes their "graphite" rod more practical. Among those rods made of a graphite-glass composition, the Shakespeare Ugly Stik has certainly proven to be a best seller.

Among the elite, the "in" material this year is boron. This material costs several hundred dollars per pound, so it's little wonder that rods made with it are costly. Even more so than with graphite, boron rods are invariably a composition of materials—with the sole exception of the one hundred percent boron fly rods produced by Browning. Browning has been the leader in this field, but even their boron spinning rods are only forty percent boron—plus sixty percent graphite. Not having fished a boron rod as yet, I can't comment as to their utility, but a good friend of mine has used one extensively and is very impressed.

Though saltwater fishermen haven't gone into the exotic rod materials to any great extent so far, I'm sure this will change as prices continue to drop. At least, this should be the case with light spinning rods. The material costs in heavier rods (such as surf rods) keeps the prices high enough that the advantages may not prove as compelling.

HANDMADE CEDAR PLUGS

by McKain

Hardly anywhere can you purchase, today, a cedar casting plug. In fact, we know of no commercially made cedar plugs being offered for sale other than perhaps by a collector or two. Yet it wasn't but just a few years back when Jersey-made plugs were a mainstay of the tackle industry.

With this in mind, we were delighted to come upon some chunks of cedar. They were cured wood, destined for a fireplace at the home of Fred and Ida Schrier of Toms River, N.J. Admittedly they were not the native white cedar of the Pine Barrens, but the introduced red cedar. Beggars can't be choosers—so thank you very much Fred and Ida, we hope the loss won't result in more than one evening's inconvenience at your warm hearthside. We promise you the plugs will, when completed, be put to good use.

Never having had the opportunity to fish a saltwater cedar plug (although we have used them for trolling offshore), we decided to hand-make one or two and document the operation for Fisherman readers.

The first thing you do, after obtaining a piece or two of cured wood, is to rough cut it to the size you plan to use. Of course, it is far easier to do this with a table or band saw if they are available. But it's no trouble to make the rough cuts with a good hand saw.

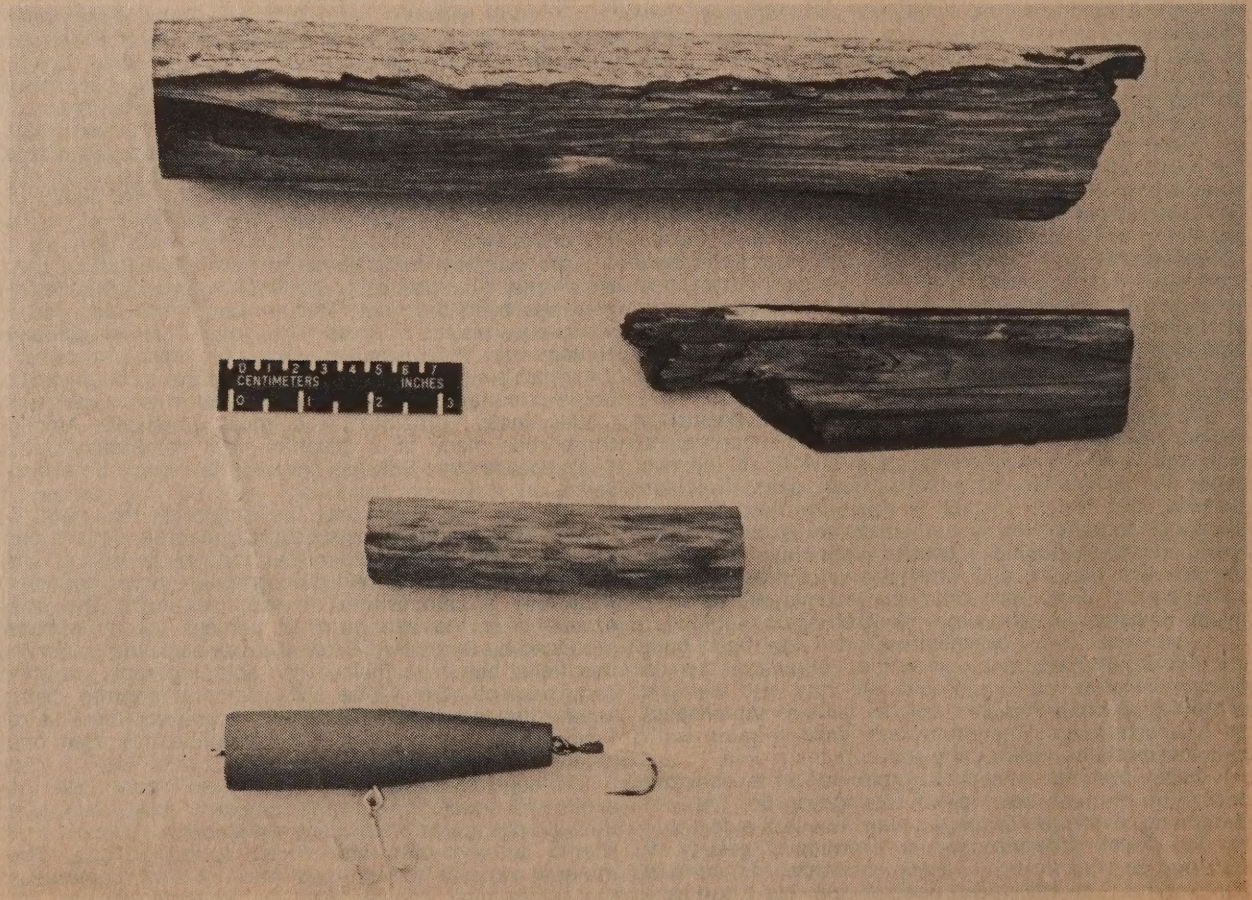
The chunks of cedar that we began with were about fourteen to sixteen inches long and measured about an inch to an inch-and-a-half thick by three-and-a-half to four inches deep. By cutting these in half lengthwise, and into thirds in the other direction, we were able to get at least four or five very good blanks and one or two smaller ones.

For the person skilled in woodworking and with access to a lathe, the next step is easy. Simply position the block of wood between the chucks, make your pencil outlines and start turning the wood down to the desired shape. After this is done, take some sandpaper and smooth out your plug. Make the final cuts at each end and you are ready to do another one.

With hand tools, it's a bit more difficult. There are two choices: first, is the ever-useful pocket knife. Just draw the lines of the shape you want on the block and carve away. It is advisable to make a set of cardboard templates to check the work as you progress; that is, unless you are a very skilled woodcarver. We, needless to say, are not.

A somewhat easier method is to set up your wood block in a vise and use a hand rasp for the rough shaping and a wood file followed by sandpaper for the final shaping and finish work. Here again, a template helps keep your prospective while filing away the wood.

Although you may ruin a block or two before you get it down to what you want, hand carving a topwater plug is a very satisfying experience.



From rough block to finished plug.

You can simply copy the shape you want from a commercially-made lure or you can invent your own. Be careful of the latter, however, because most of the really good shapes have already been made. Remember, the objective is to hand make a plug that will catch fish.

A simple "popper" style with a constant diameter, rounder tail and head section slided at a 45° angle is an easy one for starters. As you become a bit more proficient you might want to try a rear-weighted model that casts better into the wind. Hand shaping of this style takes a bit more skill and work.

For a freshwater plug, it's not necessary to through-wire the lure. It really isn't all that necessary to do so for plugs used in saltwater, but many anglers would suffer culture shock if they ever found that out. No plug is going to last forever, especially if you fish it regularly. If you do, you are going to constantly be checking it for sharp hooks and tight hardware anyhow.

For those of you demanding it, simply drill a small bore hole lengthwise through the plug with a one-quarter inch drill and a very long bit. Make another hole or two, depending upon the number of hooks you plan to use, through the bottom until it intersects with the center hole. Use a larger diameter drill bit for this operation and take care not to drill too deep.

Use a barrel swivel to hold the hooks with the other eye of the swivel going up inside the plug. Pass a wire through the plug that has the tail hook already secured to it. This will intercept the barrel swivels and then form a close loop at the front of the plug.

A much quicker and less complicated way is to use a treble hook or single swinging hook if you so desire, on a heavy duty screw eye. Twist the hook and eye in only after you have water tested the lure.

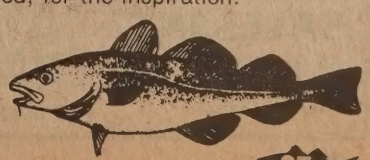
To do this, tape all the planned hardware in place with masking tape and put the whole affair in a bucket of water or a bathtub full if you want. To be effective, a topwater plug should float in a level mode. If yours doesn't, try re-arranging the hooks or perhaps adding one or eliminating one.

Mark the positions on a sketch that you have made on a separate piece of paper because you still have to paint the plug. Dry your plug thoroughly (like for a day or two) before painting. Now some people are going to want to fish their creation in its natural color. If that's the case, consider putting on several coats of polyurethane sealer first.

If you are going to paint it, then you have several options. If you are only making one or two plugs, get a small can of good enamel and brush coat the plug. If you plan on making a dozen or so to last through one or more seasons of hard surfcasting, then you should invest in enough paint to dip the plugs. Use a thin coat and allow time enough to dry thoroughly. Do this as many times as you desire. At least four, and as many as six or eight is better. Sure, it takes time to make good plugs... good anything takes time!

The final step for our plug was the installation of the hooks. We chose the easy way and used the screw eyes. We did, however, give ourselves a little insurance. Once the screw eyes were carefully put in place they, just as carefully, were backed out and coated with a good epoxy glue and then reinserted and allowed to dry.

Was it worth all the trouble and do they work? Hell, yes, it was worth it. It's something we had never done and no matter how many plugs are on the market (and many will be far better made than our own), it is still a good feeling to be able to say that "I made this," especially when that first fish slams into it. As for the last part of the question, we're not sure yet. They cast well, but we'll probably just have to wait to find out just how well they catch fish. Thank you, Fred, for the inspiration.



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The Boat—NOT YOU!

by Capt. John DeMaio

Have you ever been in a situation that placed you alongside another boat that was catching fish and you weren't? Of course you have, it happens often. Only in this instance, there doesn't seem to be a reason why.

Let's get hypothetical for a moment. The boat alongside you is being operated by someone you know very well. He may be your best pal and you have no secrets between each other. You're using the same line type and pound test, you're both diamond jigging. The same jig is being employed; exact reels; both of your chart recorders are marking fish. Your boats are close enough to shake hands. Only one obvious difference in this picture is that your pal is knocking the socks off them and you are barely managing to pick one or two. So, how come?

The answer could be you're not using the same boat. You're in a shallow draft outboard and he has a deep-keeled inboard. Pertaining to diamond jigging, the difference in boats will make an amazing difference in what you catch.

It has taken awhile for this subtlety to penetrate my thick skull. But after seeing it happen, year after year and time and time again, I am convinced. The action of your boat in a given circumstance can be a crucial factor in determining what you catch.

My boat is thirty feet long and draws three feet of water. When stemming the tide (maintaining your position in the water without the aid of anchor), my boat will hold in place steady and true; whereas the diamond jig will maintain a steady position when being worked. When maintaining position is the key to making the bass bite the jig, my boat is boss.

On the other hand, some days the boat that slips and falls off to the side, will outfish me. Even though I am aware of this problem, I am most often unable to do anything about it.

An example: this fall an outboard boat stuck to me like glue for about a week's time. (And everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go.) In a period of three days, I watched the tide turn more ways than one. On one afternoon's flood tide, they watched me catch about eight bass. The best they could do was two or three. The wind was unimportant. Next morning, a breezy northeast wind was against the tide. When I tried to stem the tide as the day before, my boat would advance too quickly because of the wind pushing me. Drifting wouldn't work, either. My low profile boat grabs more tide than wind when drifting in strong currents. I was evidently drifting too fast. The outboard drifted back very slowly. They outfished me three to one. On the next day, conditions favored me and I outfished them badly.

Trolling is similar. It is absolutely without a doubt that the bigger the boat, the better you can troll. Outboards, especially when fishing Montauk, are the worst for trolling. Any little wind and the necessary long wire lines will hang the bottom when trying to turn. You're just unable to turn into the wind without added rpm's.

Even my boat will troll best in windless days. So will any boat, for that matter. The best possible trolling boat would be a twin engine boat with a deep draft. Then you can make turns as if you were on railroad tracks.

One more plus for the deep-keeled boat. When anchored up and bottom fishing, and the tide is nearing the end, the longer your boat can stay in its original position, the more you can catch. Fish will bite better at the end of the tide. After being anchored for a couple of hours, and having the fish chummed up under the boat, it is to your advantage to be able to hang in till the tide dies. If the wind is in a different direction than the tide, you will be blown off the spot. Or, the boat will **swing** off the fish.

I can remember the bigger boats continuing to catch after my outboard swung off the fish. Now with a bigger boat, the odds are in my favor. Believe me, it sure hurts to leave them biting.

If you are into casting, the draft of your boat can make a difference. When casting and retrieving, the speed of the boat drifting can make a difference in lure action. I have been on both sides here also. Catching, and watching them be caught. A fast drifting boat can be slowed up by dropping over some device on a short rope to slow you down—such as a garbage pail.

Don't forget drifting and bottom fishing. Your boat can drift too fast, too slow, or just perfect. Perfect for a day, that is. A change in the weather and the following day you're in the wrong boat. Over a period of time, the boat that drifts the **slowest** will do best. It's like shooting craps. Keep betting **right** and you have to eventually win.

So keep the action of your boat in mind the next time you're looking for a reason. The movement may be so delicate that it is barely noticeable. Yet, it may just be the answer!

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FISHING REPORTS

MONTAUK

Maud Vigillant, wife of the late Captain Dick Vigillant asked us to convey her thanks to her past customers and also asked us to let you know that the **Triton II** is now the **Blue Albatross II** and is presently sailing out of Captree.

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported some flounder activity in the Shinnecock Canal on worm bait. He described the fishing as just getting started.

HAMPTON BAYS

Corr's Fishing Station called to let us know that the Station is in full swing now and has bait at all times and that the Station is being run by Fred Muhs this year.

MORICHES BAY

Larry at **L&M Marine** tells us that although he had a lot of skiffs out on Sunday, things were generally picky. All boats took fish, however. Larry says since the previous week, the water took a 7° drop down to 36°. Despite this, a notable catch was made by Great Guns Anglers' member Bill Sosinicki with 70 keeper flounder and twice as many midgets. This catch was made at Quogue Canal. Bill said he got away from the mob of boats that was there at buoy 54, got off by himself and worked one hole on the outoing tide with worm/clam combos.

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** tells of good floundering on Sunday, mainly in Quogue Canal. Fish are running from 1/2 to 3/4 lbs. and are hitting on both tides. Worms on the hook along with mussel or clam chum does the trick.

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil of the **Casey Lee** who will be sailing daily starting March 21, reports his fares had good flounder fishing Sunday working off Bay Shore and the Heckscher holes for fish from 1-2 lbs. Willie Reinig of East Islip and Dr. Paul Saren of Flushing had 24 flounder between them and also the pool which went 2-plus lbs. This was on bloods and red-dyed clam, any moving water.

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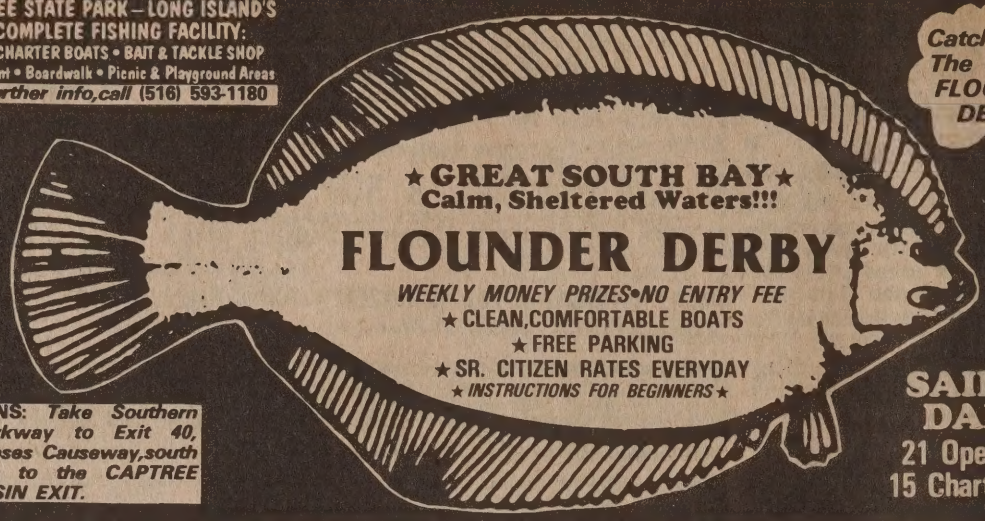

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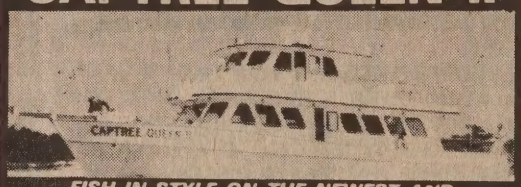

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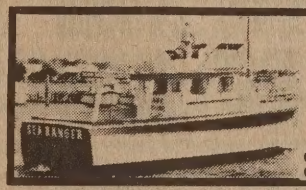

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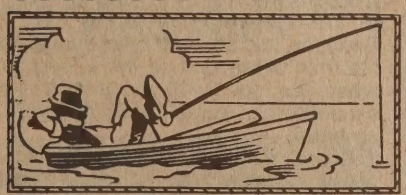

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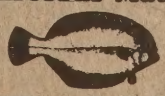

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The water remains very cold and there was still salt ice in the harbor. There were fish at every drop, says Neil, and it seems that there are good numbers of flounder around. Warmer water temperatures should result in excellent catches this spring.

CAPTREE

Captain George Roman of the **Captree Queen II** had 16 passengers aboard on Sunday and they accounted for 123 flounder, all keepers ranging up to 1½ lbs. High hook was Pete Garris with 20 fish. Pete is from North Babylon. The boat fished Heckscher buoy 4 and Bayberry Point buoy 2.

The open boat **Capt. Litwin** told of very good flatfish action in the Heckscher area on Sunday. Worm and clam bait resulted in average catches of 10-12 fish per man. No throwbacks.

Captain George Tweedy of the open boat **Capt. Scotty**, said that as long as the cod hang in there, he will stay with them. On Sunday, fishing south of the inlet in 100-110' of water, five cod from 25-42 lbs. came over the rail. The Captain said that you had to have the rod in your hand to score. At least a dozen fish were missed on "dead sticks."

The **Capt. Rod** said that Saturday's gale winds resulted in a total blowout. On Sunday, however, the fares aboard accounted for over 100 good size flounder on the Heckscher and Islip clam flats. Worms and clams were equally effective and Capt. Rod feels it is safe to say the spring run is underway.

BABYLON

Dolores at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** tells us that Babylon angler Norman VanDeinse bought a couple of dozen bloodworms from her and drove up to Lloyd Harbor where he took 24 flounder, 12 of which were keepers. He then proceeded to the Lilco plant where he took 2, 10 lb. bass, but on sand worms. Augie's now has worms on hand.

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** is officially open for the season now and he says that besides a ready supply of bloodworms, he now has several brand new shiny 16' Fiberglas Sturdy skiffs with matching brand new 10 h.p. Spirit outboards.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait & Tackle relates the fact that a few of his regular customers went out floundering Sunday and banged away to the tune of 12-15 flatties per man. These were sharpies and a lot of other people just picked a few fish. Best producing spots were Fort Neck Pt., Massapequa Cove, Unqua Point and the juncture of Amityville cut and the East/West channel. Mussel and

worm bait work well with mussel and clam chum. George says as the weather and water warm up, catches will be a lot better for all. He advises right now fishing the deep holes along the northern shore line. Fish have been hitting best on the last of the ebb and the beginning of the flood. The weekend of March 29 and 30 will be the National Decoy Show in Melville. Babylon Tuna Club's Great South Bay contest will be held September 6, for further info call George.

SEAFORD

Captain Eddie's Fishing Station had three boats out on Sunday. One boat returned with 9 keeper flounders up to 1¼ lbs. These were taken at the red buoy at Four Corners on the last of the flood and beginning of the ebb. Bloodworms and clam chum were the order of the day. The fish had no mud on them and they had tiny striped shrimp in their bellies.

Pop's Fishing Station had some boats out Sunday. Mr. Brummer and friend from Bellmore brought in 4 nice flounder, 10-12" long. Private boats have been getting some flounder at Four Corners and Squaw Island on bloods and red-dyed clam.

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports flounder catches are light though lots of people took a whack at it on Sunday. Best results being made off the Jones Beach Piers and the deep hole at Massapequa Cove on worms. Fish the deep water now, says Lon. Red-dyed clams working very well also. The store will have worms now on a regular basis.

BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** says the hottest flounder spot he's heard of this week has been off the Jones Beach piers on blood worms with a few fish per man being pulled.

FREEPORT

Captain Spider Schmitt of the **Aloma II** reports that his customers had some large flounder Sunday, all

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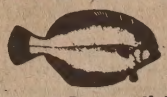

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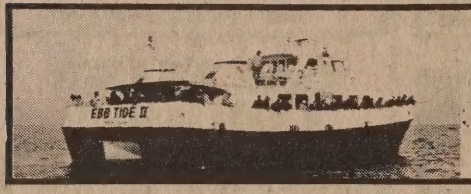

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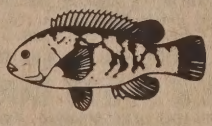

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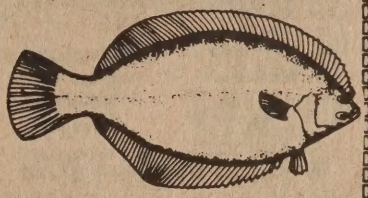

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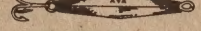

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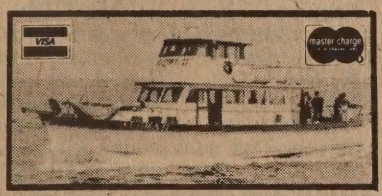

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fish running from 1-1½ lbs. The water was still frigid this weekend and the best show of fish was in the Baldwin area. Spider says that with warmer weather, the fishing should take hold. He hasn't seen any of the small flounder that abounded last year, that all the fish caught were these big keeper fish.

Captain Tony of the **Miss Freeport** was unable to get the boat in the water as planned for the weekend as he was delayed by the shipyard and the weather. However, he will be starting to sail on Thursday, March 20, sailing at 9AM daily and of course will be ready to do battle on the weekend.

The **Starstream II** is getting a big interior decorating job with brand new paneling and brand new upholstery on the interior benches. New flooring is also being installed as well.

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sports** tells of a few flounder being caught on blood worms and clam chum in Swift Creek and Merrick Bay on incoming water.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** reported that high winds on Saturday made for busy fishing conditions. On Sunday, the boat fished the Navesink River and despite muddy waters the catches were pretty good. Catches ran from 4-12 fish per person in the 1/2 to 3/4 lb. class. Pool fish ran up to 1 lb. taken on mussel bait. Captain Tom will be sailing for these flatties daily at 7AM.

Sal at **Stella Maris Tackle** reports catches of whiting and ling have been made through the weekend and that a few flounder are being caught at Silver Hole, Manhattan Beach and the jetty area.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy Rubin told us from **Henning's Station** that he is ready to go for flounder hopefuls. With milder temperatures this week, he is looking forward to a good weekend.

Skippy's Bait & Tackle (all set up in their new store now), next to where their old, smaller store was reports flounder catches have been light so far for local flounder-pounders. Mussel and blood worm on the hook have done their usual job. A few white perch have been taken in Mill River on shrimp or shad darts.

ISLAND PARK

The **Commodore** sailed on Sunday and picked away at a few fish of mixed sizes up to 1½ lbs. Captain Clem says that the water has been frigid and the fish have been remaining in the mud, but by the end of the week, the warmer weather and increased water temperatures should bring them out for a snack.

Captain Dennis of the **Marie III** had a charter out Sunday from Bob's Fishing Club, out of Bob's Bar and Grill, Lakeview. The trip was arranged by Commodore Herman Garcia. A 43 lb. cod hoisted by Frank Manna took the pool. Frank and Bob Mann tied for high hook with 3 cod apiece. The body count for the day was 16 cod. Four were under 10 lbs. and the remainder ran 15-43 lbs. Action was four miles southwest of the NA buoy in 115' of water. Dennis says he still has 2 March weekends open for cod or flounder.

At **Beckmann's Tackle Shop**, Charlie reported guys have been out trying but no one has come back to report any catches. Charlie has a good supply of worms and mussels in stock for the flounder faithful.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station called to say they opened this weekend and although the water was cold, Middle Bay produced a few flounder in the 1/2 to 3/4 lb. category and that with

some warmer temperatures, the floundering should be good.

Ed's Fishing Station said that the few boats that tried on Sunday managed a dozen or so flatties apiece. The fishing took a downturn from the previous weekend due to a combination of gale winds, strong tides, cold and snow. The fish that were taken were in the 1/2 to 3/4 lb. range.

LONG BEACH

Frank at **Long Beach Sports Marina** said that fishing was fair on Sunday for the couple of boats that sampled the local flounder. Duck Point produced fish up to 2 lbs. on worms.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Bait & Tackle** said that the flounder fishing is off to a "pretty good start." Fish are averaging about 1/2 lb. and are being taken on worms, mussels, and clams. The north and south channel bridges as well as the Rockaway shorefront have been productive.

GREENPORT

A new boat, the **Peconic Star**, will begin sailing very shortly from Mitchell's Dock. The able skipper Captain Bob Ciglowski had been running the Brand X and Prime Time out of Greenport for the last two years and Bob is now running the Peconic Star and is said to know the waters well.

SOUTHOLD

Ace of the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** told us that he would be ready to go this weekend. He has a good supply of worms and mussels on hand.

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** told of a few small flounder in Mt. Sinai Harbor, but described the fishing as hardly worth the effort. He knew that some customers had done well fishing the banks of the Quogue Canal.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie Ferrara of **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** had no flounder news but passed along word of good striper action at Lilco on Saturday night. Ronnie figured about 30 bass were beached on worm bait by the few anglers spread along Crabmeadow Beach and at the plant. Saturday's strong northwest wind ignited the action.

Ronnie Ferrara of *Ronnie's Bait and Tackle* called with an additional piece of news that good flounder action was had at Lloyd Harbor by several customers who came into the

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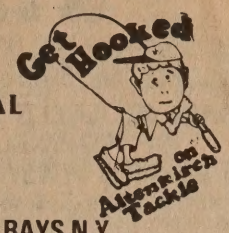

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shop late Monday morning. They bagged fish up to 1½ lbs. on mussel and sand worm baits and mussel chum.

GLEN COVE

The **Lady Lil II** called to say they will begin sailing Saturday and that the boat is all ship-shape and ready to pursue north shore flatties. See ad for details.

CITY ISLAND

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** tells of a few flounder being caught in the Orchard Beach Lagoon, a traditionally early flounder spot. A few tommycod are also being pulled. The flounders are taking sandworms and running 3/4 to a pound.

BOYD, BRYANT TO CHAIR FORUM IN BOSTON

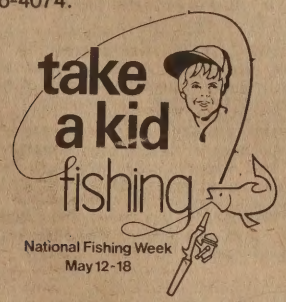
Les Boyd and Nelson Bryant have agreed to chair the second annual Sport Fishermen's Forum which will be held at the New England Aquarium Auditorium at 7PM on Wednesday, March 26.

The forum will be held in connection with the two-day Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium which will take place on Thursday and Friday at the Copley Plaza Hotel. Because striped bass is the central subject of this year's Symposium, a number of state, Federal and university striper experts are expected to be on hand at the Forum, together with Congressional staff persons who have expressed an interest in attending.

By design, the Forum is an informal, open debate. Any sport fishing-related topic is appropriate. Because of the high level of local concern occasioned by the drastic decline in striped bass stocks in recent years and the presence of biologists and other striper experts, much of the debate is expected to center on this subject. But New England anglers have a number of other things on their minds, such as bluefin tuna problems, the saltwater license issue, coho stocking, beach access—all of which will be welcome topics for questions and comments at the debate.

Admission is free and the National Coalition for Marine Conservation will provide a keg.

For more information, call: Chris Weld at 338-2909; Spider Andresen at 426-4074.



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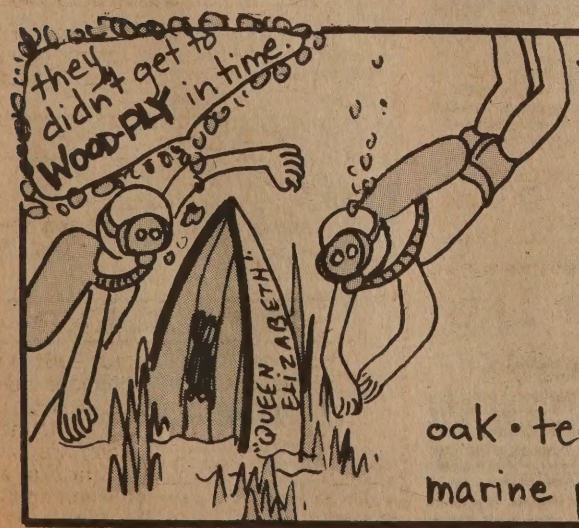

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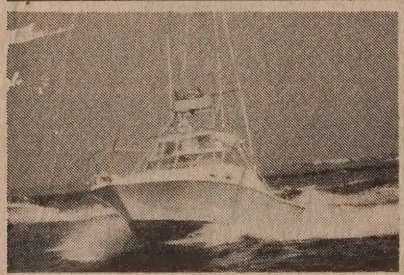
New 1980 LUND Aluminum boat and new 1980 SPIRIT Outboards. Dockage available to 26'. Five minutes from Shinnecock Inlet. SUNSHINE MARINE, 23 Rampasture Road, Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. 516-728-1339.



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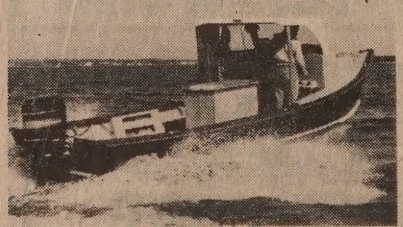
1973 SEARAY 240 Weekender. Clean; 225 OMC VHF, CB, DF. Full galley, head. Excellent canvas. Many extras for fishing. Eves. after 6PM. 516-728-8389. $8500.



1979 Custom 24' Fisherman 140 Merc.; 15x7 cockpit. Equipped for serious fishing. $9000. 516-433-7940.

Dory 16' Wood custom built; 1978 Evinrude 35 h.p. Manual long shaft Shakespeare Center console w/remote controls. Two 6-gal. tanks; oars, anchor, cushions. New custom made mooring cover. Fiberglas helmsman seat. All perf. cond. Job transfer forces immed. sale. $1400 takes it all. 516-LY 9-3580.

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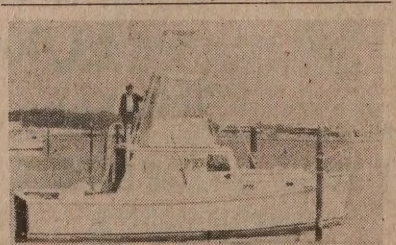

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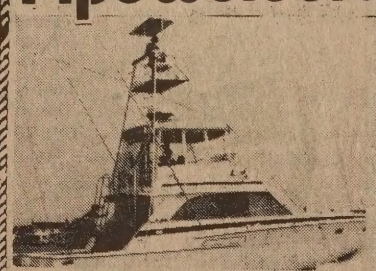

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SENATOR CHAFEE TO KEYNOTE STRIPED BASS CONFERENCE

Senator John Chafee (R-RI) will open the Fifth Annual Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston on Thursday, March 27. This year the Symposium will focus exclusively on striped bass, the "how much" and "why" of recent striper population declines and the "what to do about it" and "how to make it happen" of corrective action which can be taken at the state and Federal level.

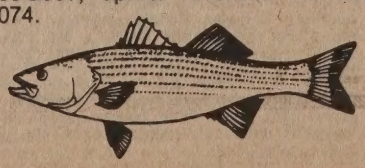
Legislation sponsored by Chafee will provide millions of Federal dollars to bankroll a comprehensive research effort to try to determine what has caused the drastic declines in striper stocks from Maine to North Carolina. How wisely those dollars are spent may determine whether or not such drastic population downtrends can be reversed.

Biologists, state and Federal fishery administrators, university professors and others will discuss what science and government must provide in order to enable us to conserve and manage striped bass successfully. The Symposium will ask whether current management efforts and biological research are in tune with each other and the real world and how biological research can be made more productive.

Widespread concern sparked by a sudden drop in striped bass abundance has led to an attempt to link up the management activities of the ten coastal states where most Atlantic striped bass fishing takes place. Progress toward coordinated management has been painfully slow since the effort began in 1977. Because of Senator Chafee's intervention, the pace is expected to pick up. In 1980, the Federal Government will provide more than a million dollars to state and Federal laboratories and to universities to analyze the impact of pollutants on striper eggs and larvae and to find out the answers to two questions now puzzling biologists. Why aren't more eggs hatching out and what is killing so many of the hatchlings in the first days and weeks of their life?

Dr. Frank E. Carlton of Savannah, Georgia, President of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation, is the Symposium Chairman. In addition to the National Coalition, other Symposium sponsors include the International Game Fish Association, Sport Fishing Institute, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Sciences Foundation.

For more info, call: Chris Weld at 338-2909; Spider Andresen at 426-4074.



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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	10:40	11:05	11:20	11:45	11:20	11:50	–	12:10	1:35	2:15	1:30	2:05	10:30	10:55	3/20
FRI.	11:35	11:55	–	12:15	–	12:20	12:35	1:10	2:35	3:20	2:25	3:00	11:25	11:50	3/21
SAT.	–	12:30	12:45	1:20	12:45	1:15	1:35	2:15	3:45	4:40	3:25	4:00	–	12:25	3/22
SUN.	12:50	1:30	1:50	2:25	1:40	2:15	2:40	3:25	5:05	5:55	4:25	5:05	12:50	1:25	3/23
MON.	1:50	2:30	2:55	3:35	2:40	3:15	3:45	4:30	6:20	6:55	5:30	6:10	1:55	2:25	3/24
TUE.	2:55	3:35	4:05	4:35	3:40	4:20	4:50	5:35	7:25	7:55	6:35	7:10	2:55	3:25	3/25
WED.	4:00	4:35	5:05	5:35	4:40	5:15	5:55	6:25	8:20	8:45	7:35	8:05	3:55	4:20	3/26
THUR.	4:55	5:25	5:55	6:20	5:35	6:05	6:45	7:10	9:10	9:35	8:30	8:55	4:45	5:10	3/27

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 06
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

3/20	6:03	6:12
3/21	6:02	6:13
3/22	6:01	6:14
3/23	5:59	6:15
3/24	5:57	6:17
3/25	5:55	6:18
3/26	5:53	6:19

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
3/16	3/23	3/1	3/9

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	7:40	1:55	8:05	2:25
Fri.	8:40	2:55	9:05	3:25
Sat.	9:40	3:55	10:05	4:25
Sun.	10:40	4:55	11:05	5:20
Mon.	11:35	5:40	11:50	6:05
Tues.	—	6:30	12:20	6:50
Wed.	12:40	7:10	1:05	7:35
Thurs.	1:20	7:55	1:50	8:15

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